

FROM THE WORLD OF BLACK HAMMER

DOCTOR ANDROMEDA™

AND THE KINGDOM OF LOST TOMORROWS

"An honest, beautiful story of choices and losses, using the incredible and otherworldly to make readers reflect on where life's focus should be."

—MULTIVERSITY COMICS

JEFF LEMIRE
MAX FIUMARA
DAVE STEWART
NATE PIEKOS

DOCTOR
ANDROMEDATM
AND THE KINGDOM OF LOST TOMORROWS



DOCTOR ANDROMEDA™

AND THE KINGDOM OF LOST TOMORROWS

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DOCTOR ANDROMEDA AND THE KINGDOM OF LOST TOMORROWS
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CHAPTER ONE: STAR CHILD

Dear Charlie, I'll be honest--I barely know where to start...

It's been so long since I've even been back in town. I was going to come see you right away but--

Well, we'll get to that. At any rate, I went to the observatory first (big surprise, right?).

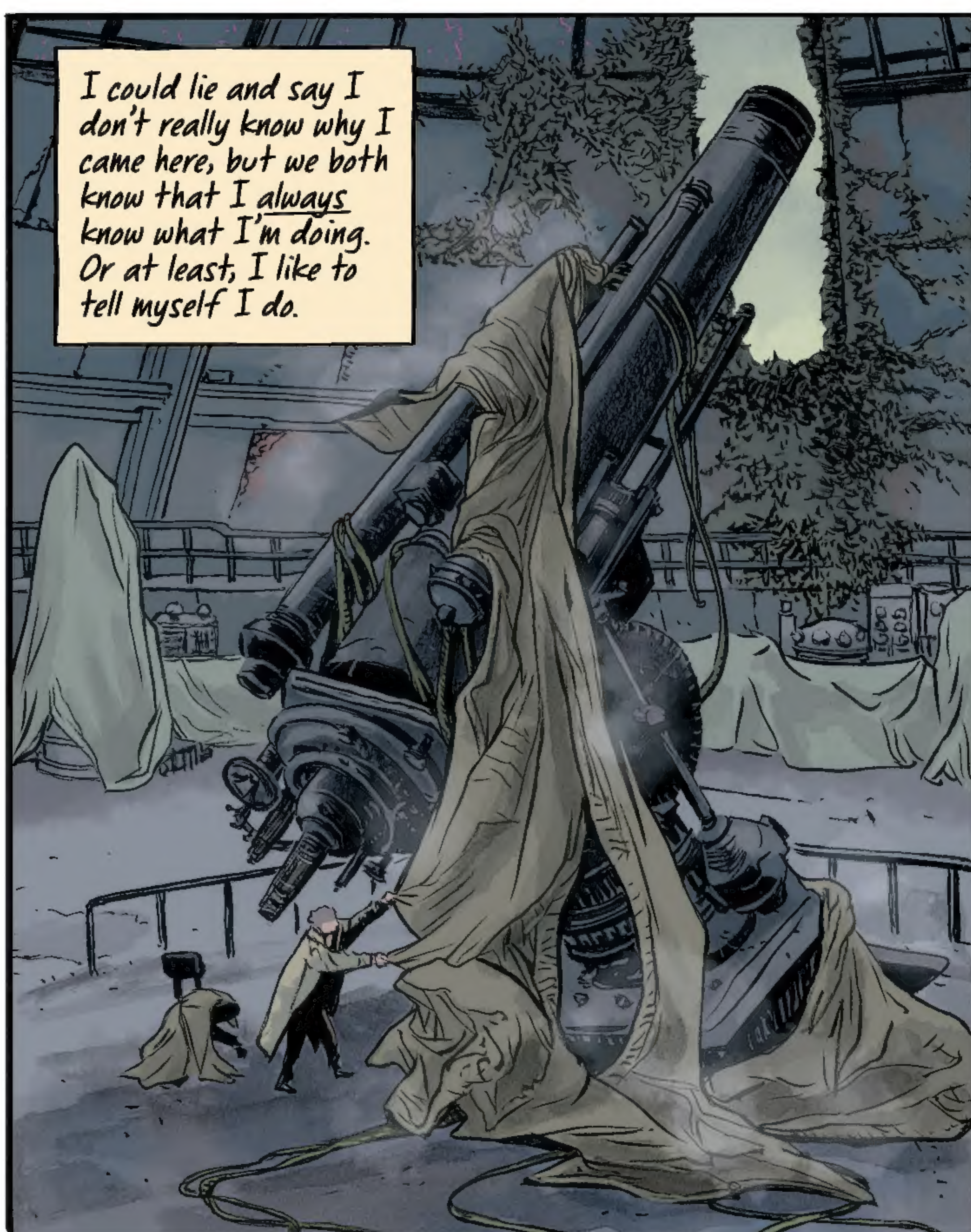
I guess I thought it would help me gather my thoughts to see the old place. But it was just...sad.



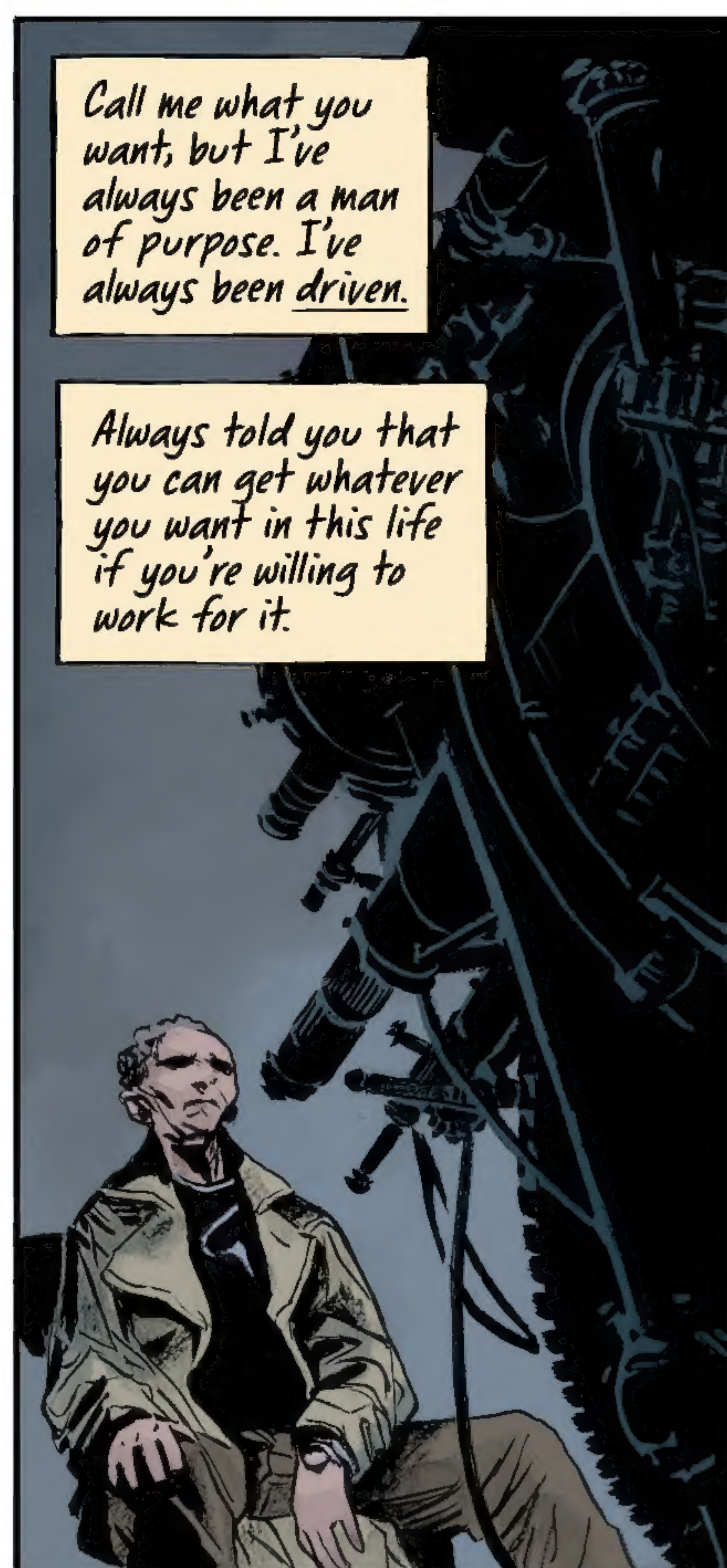
Everything was right where I left it, but it was different. Gray and old and covered in a thick layer of dust.



Hell, Charlie, most days I feel like I'm covered in a layer of dust.

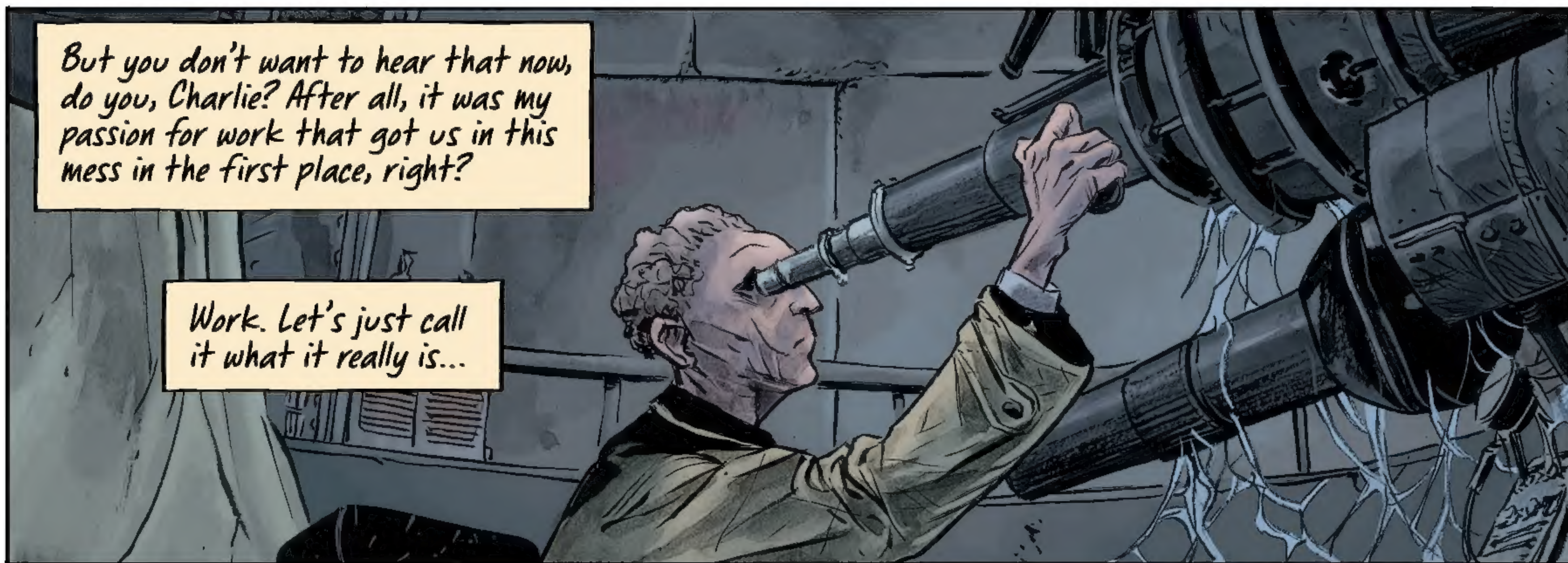


I could lie and say I don't really know why I came here, but we both know that I always know what I'm doing. Or at least, I like to tell myself I do.



Call me what you want, but I've always been a man of purpose. I've always been driven.

Always told you that you can get whatever you want in this life if you're willing to work for it.



But you don't want to hear that now, do you, Charlie? After all, it was my passion for work that got us in this mess in the first place, right?

Work. Let's just call it what it really is...



...My obsession.



And what did it really amount to? All those years looking up at the stars? Was it worth it?



I have to think it was. I have to think it meant something...

Once upon a time I was relevant, wasn't I? Once upon a time I was young...



...and my
sins were yet
to come.

1941



MR.
ROBINSON? JIM
ROBINSON?

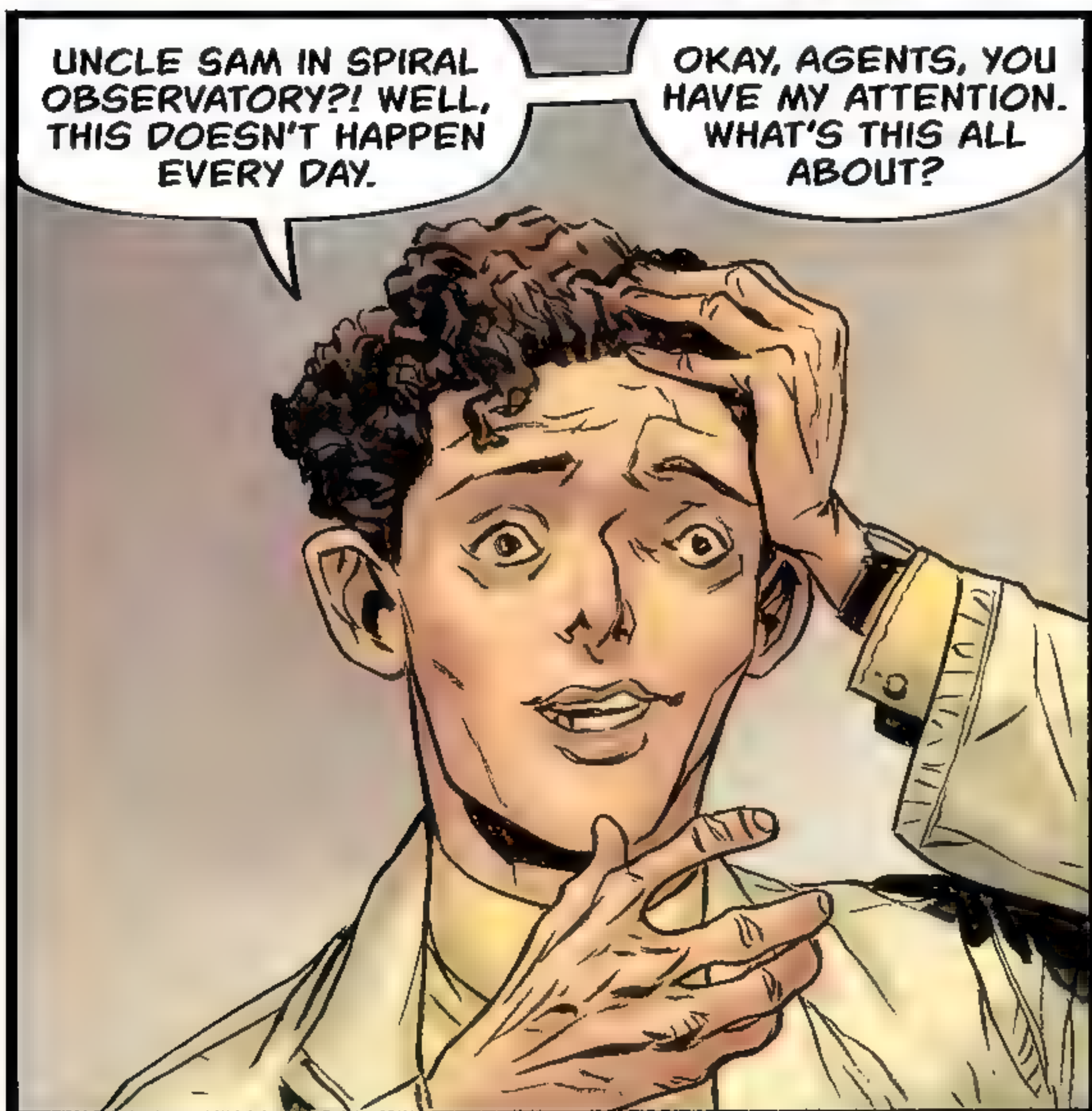
UH,
DOCTOR
ROBINSON.

DOCTOR.
APOLOGIES.
AT ANY RATE,
DO YOU HAVE
A MOMENT?



DON'T GET
MANY VISITORS
UP HERE. WHAT
CAN I HELP YOU
FELLAS WITH?

DOCTOR, MY
NAME IS AGENT
STERN, AND THIS IS
AGENT MACAVOY.
WE'RE FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE.

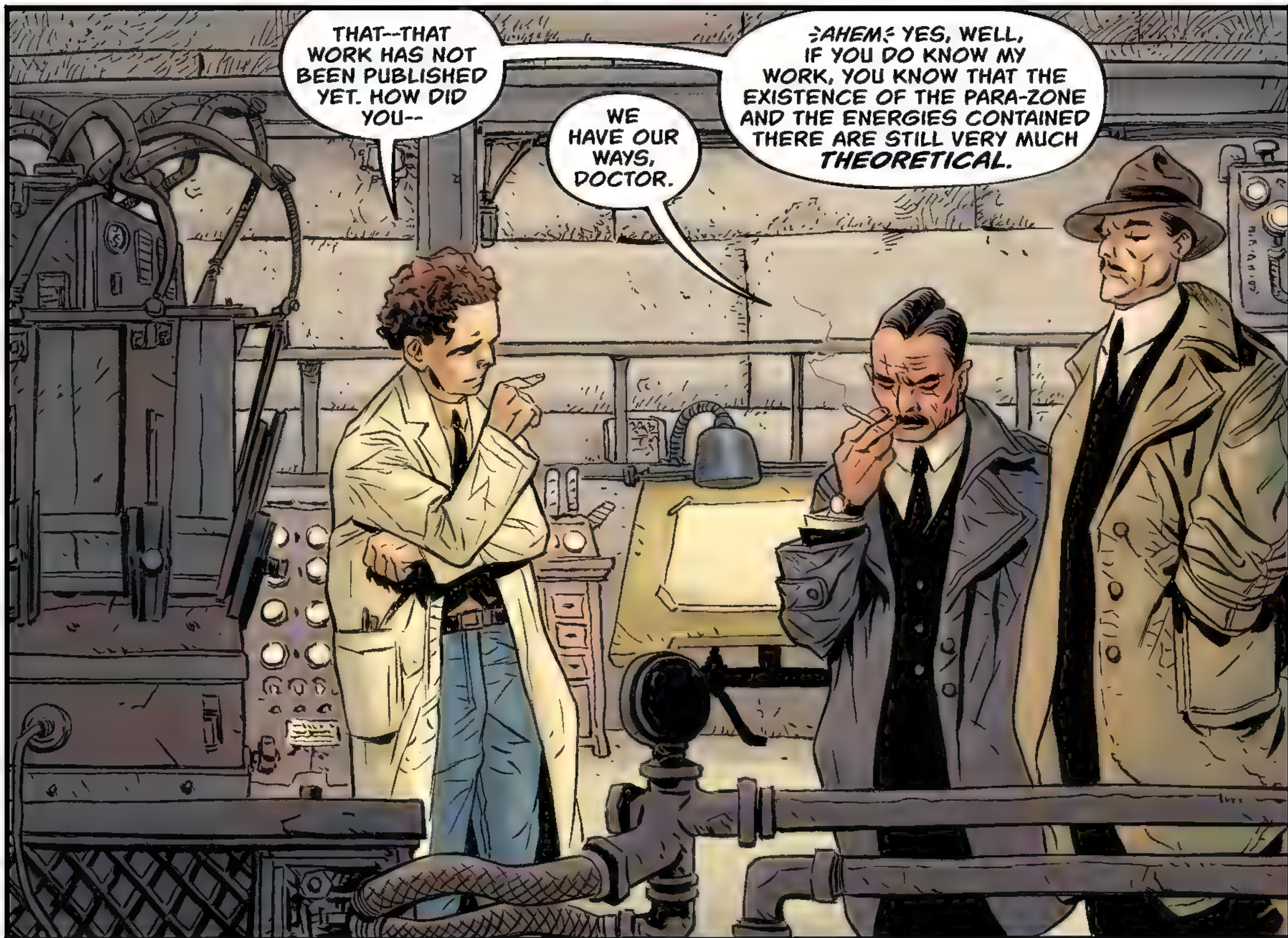


UNCLE SAM IN SPIRAL
OBSERVATORY?! WELL,
THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN
EVERY DAY.

OKAY, AGENTS, YOU
HAVE MY ATTENTION.
WHAT'S THIS ALL
ABOUT?



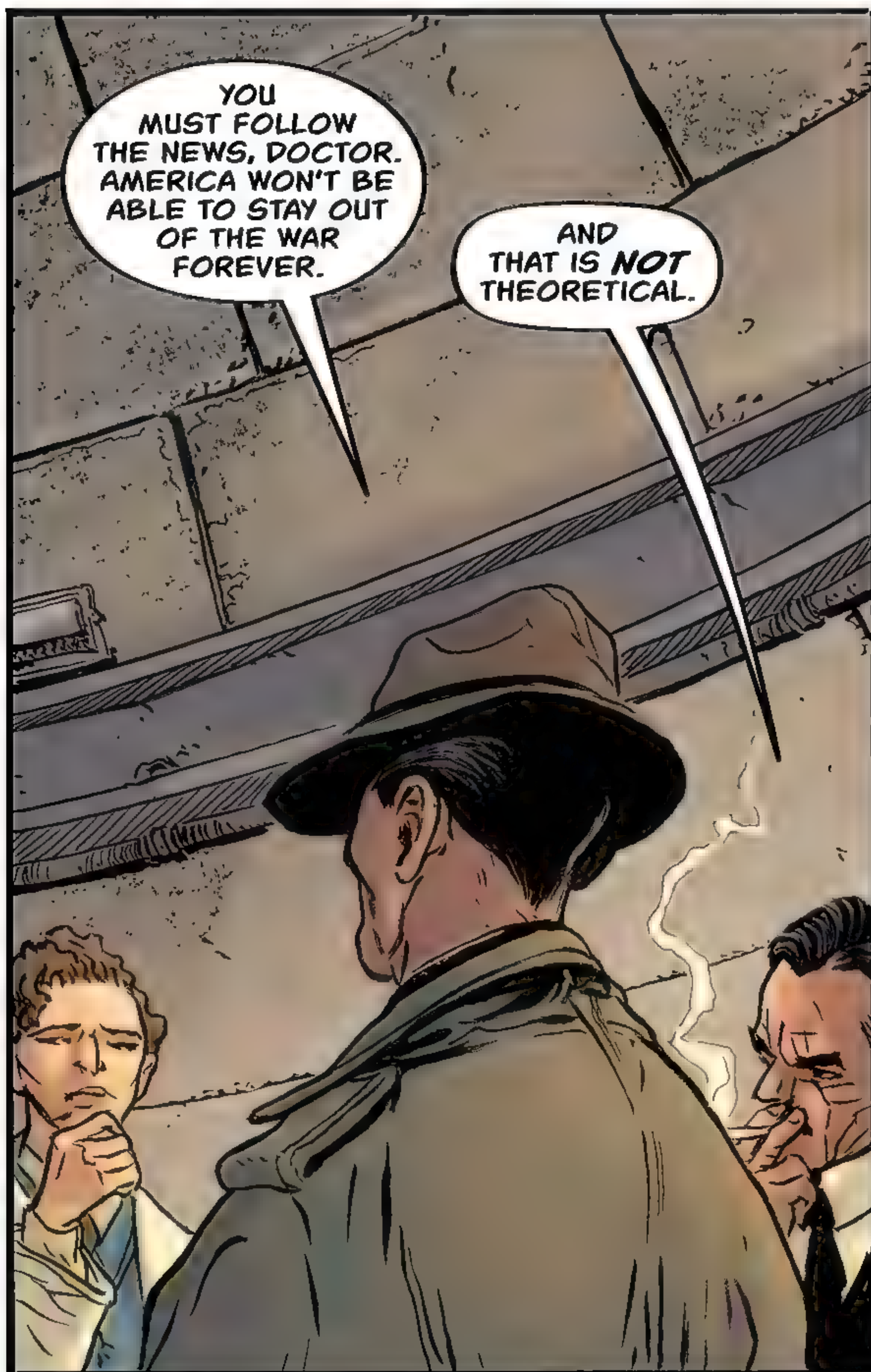
YOUR WORK IN,
UH, WHAT DO YOU
CALL IT...**PARA-**
RADIATION? WELL,
IT'S GOTTEN **OUR**
ATTENTION.



THAT--THAT
WORK HAS NOT
BEEN PUBLISHED
YET. HOW DID
YOU--

WE
HAVE OUR
WAYS,
DOCTOR.

SAHEM? YES, WELL,
IF YOU DO KNOW MY
WORK, YOU KNOW THAT THE
EXISTENCE OF THE PARA-ZONE
AND THE ENERGIES CONTAINED
THERE ARE STILL VERY MUCH
THEORETICAL.

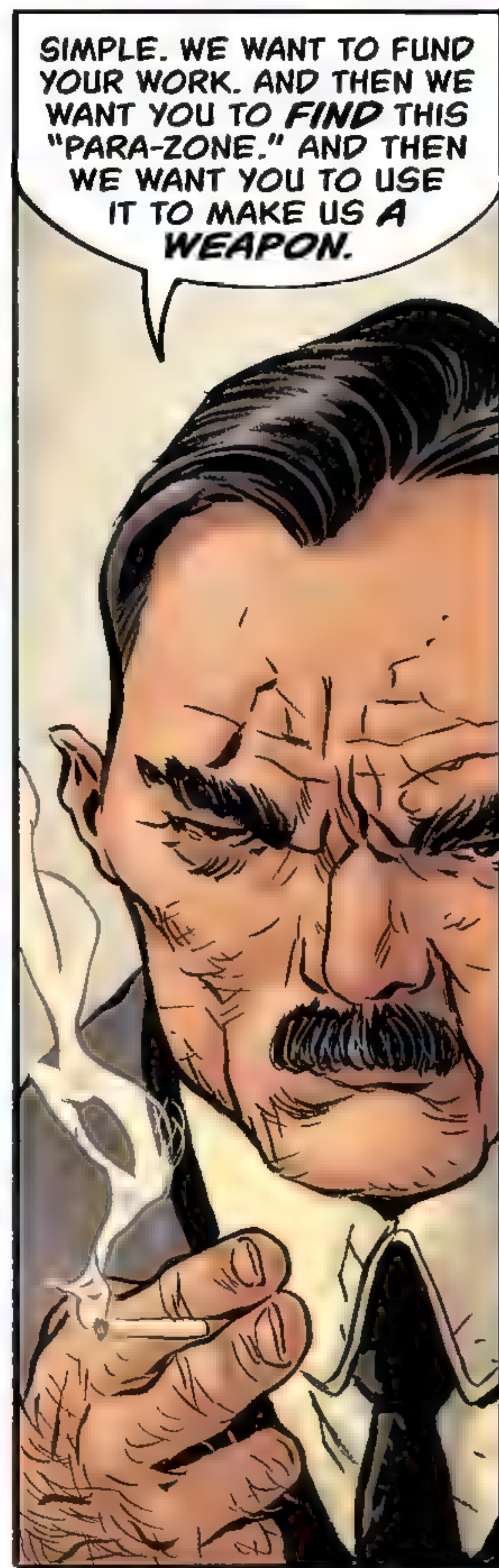


YOU
MUST FOLLOW
THE NEWS, DOCTOR.
AMERICA WON'T BE
ABLE TO STAY OUT
OF THE WAR
FOREVER.

AND
THAT IS **NOT**
THEORETICAL.



OKAY, SO
WHAT DOES
THIS HAVE TO
DO WITH
ME?



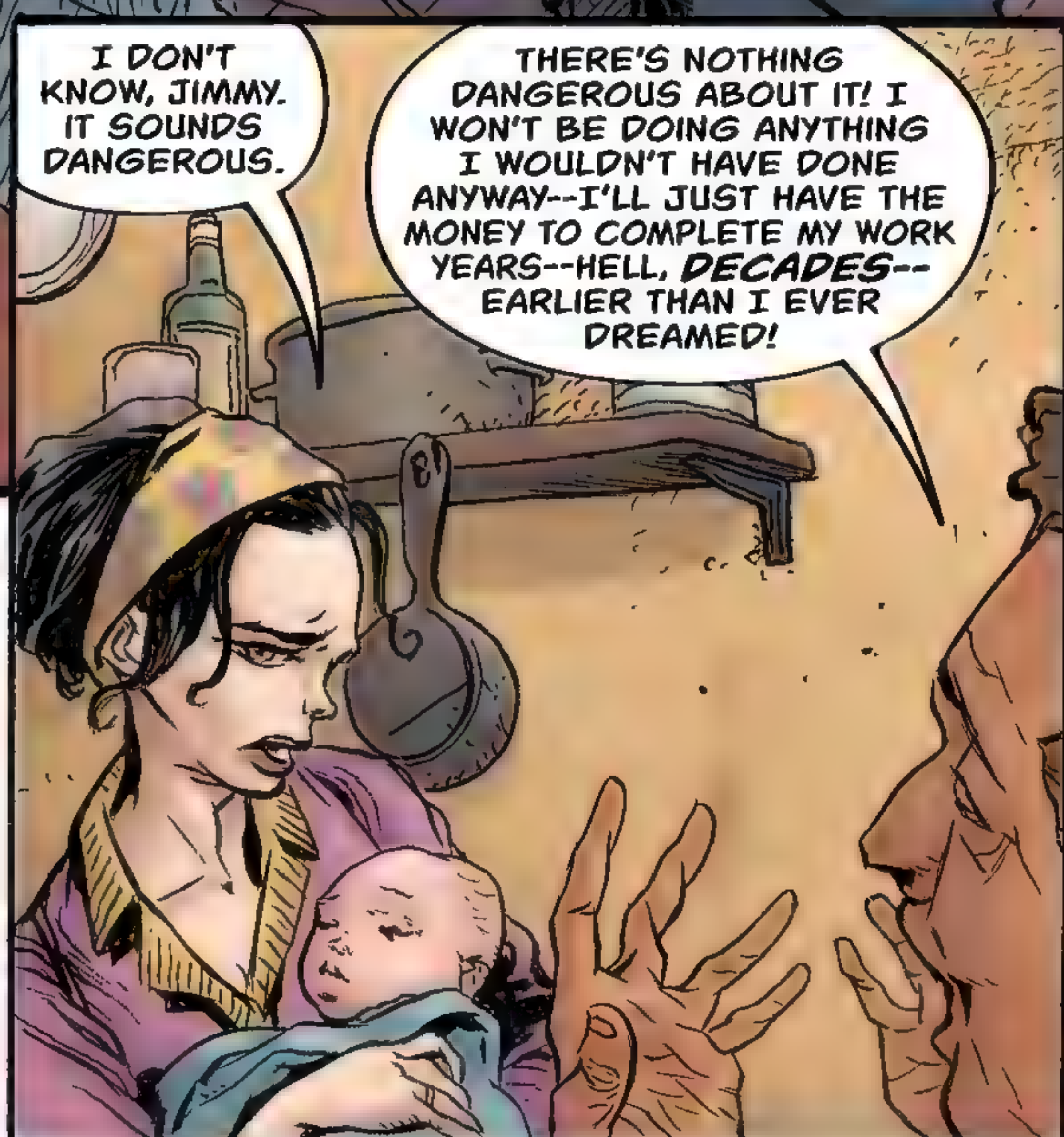
SIMPLE. WE WANT TO FUND
YOUR WORK. AND THEN WE
WANT YOU TO **FIND** THIS
"PARA-ZONE." AND THEN
WE WANT YOU TO USE
IT TO MAKE US A
WEAPON.



HOW MUCH?!



YOU HEARD ME, JOANIE! UNCLE SAM IS GOING TO MAKE US **RICH!** WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF THIS DUMP, FIND A SPOT IN A NICE HOUSE IN THE SUBURBS.



I DON'T KNOW, JIMMY. IT SOUNDS DANGEROUS.

THERE'S NOTHING DANGEROUS ABOUT IT! I WON'T BE DOING ANYTHING I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYWAY--I'LL JUST HAVE THE MONEY TO COMPLETE MY WORK YEARS--HELL, **DECADES**--EARLIER THAN I EVER DREAMED!



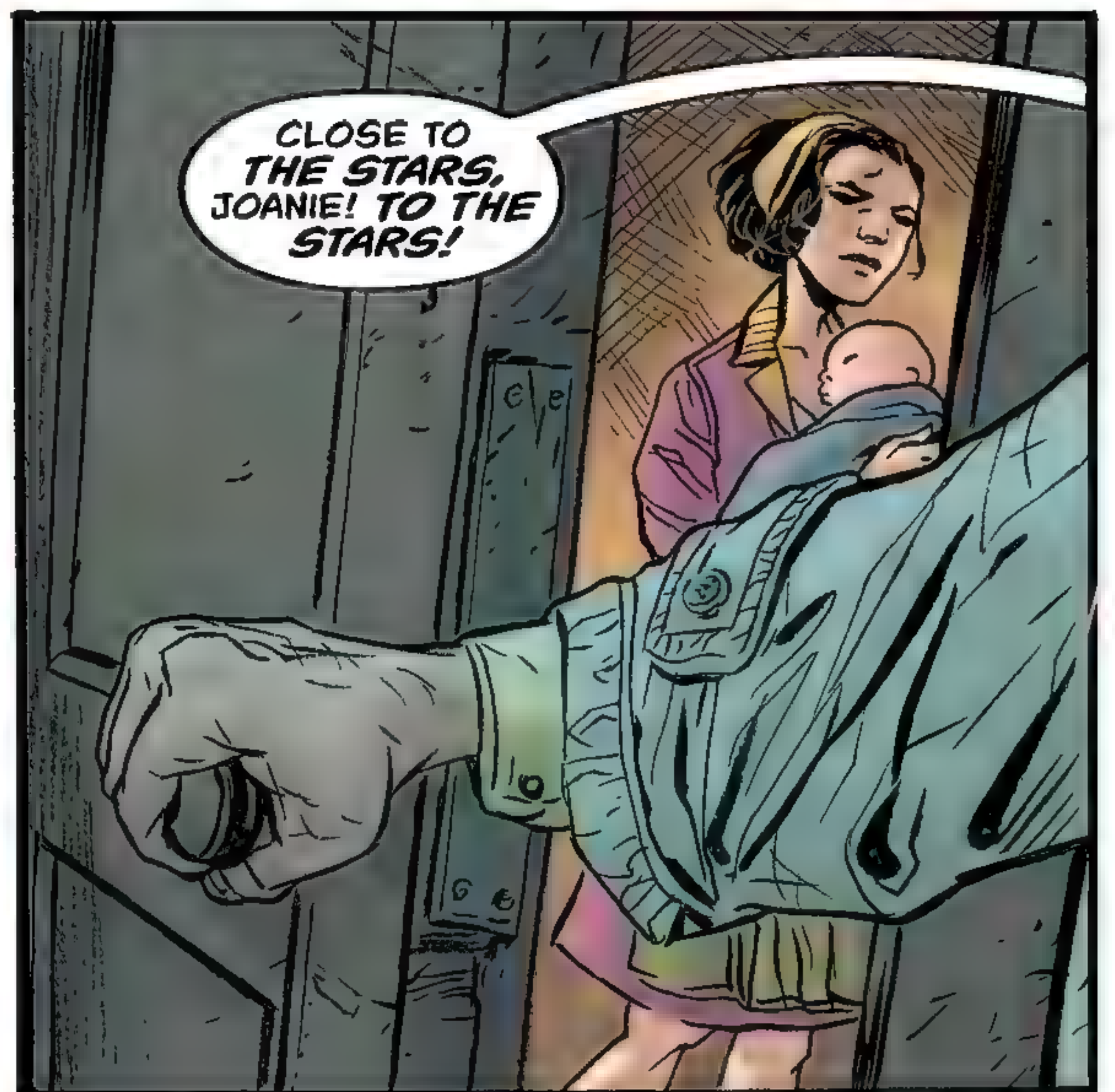
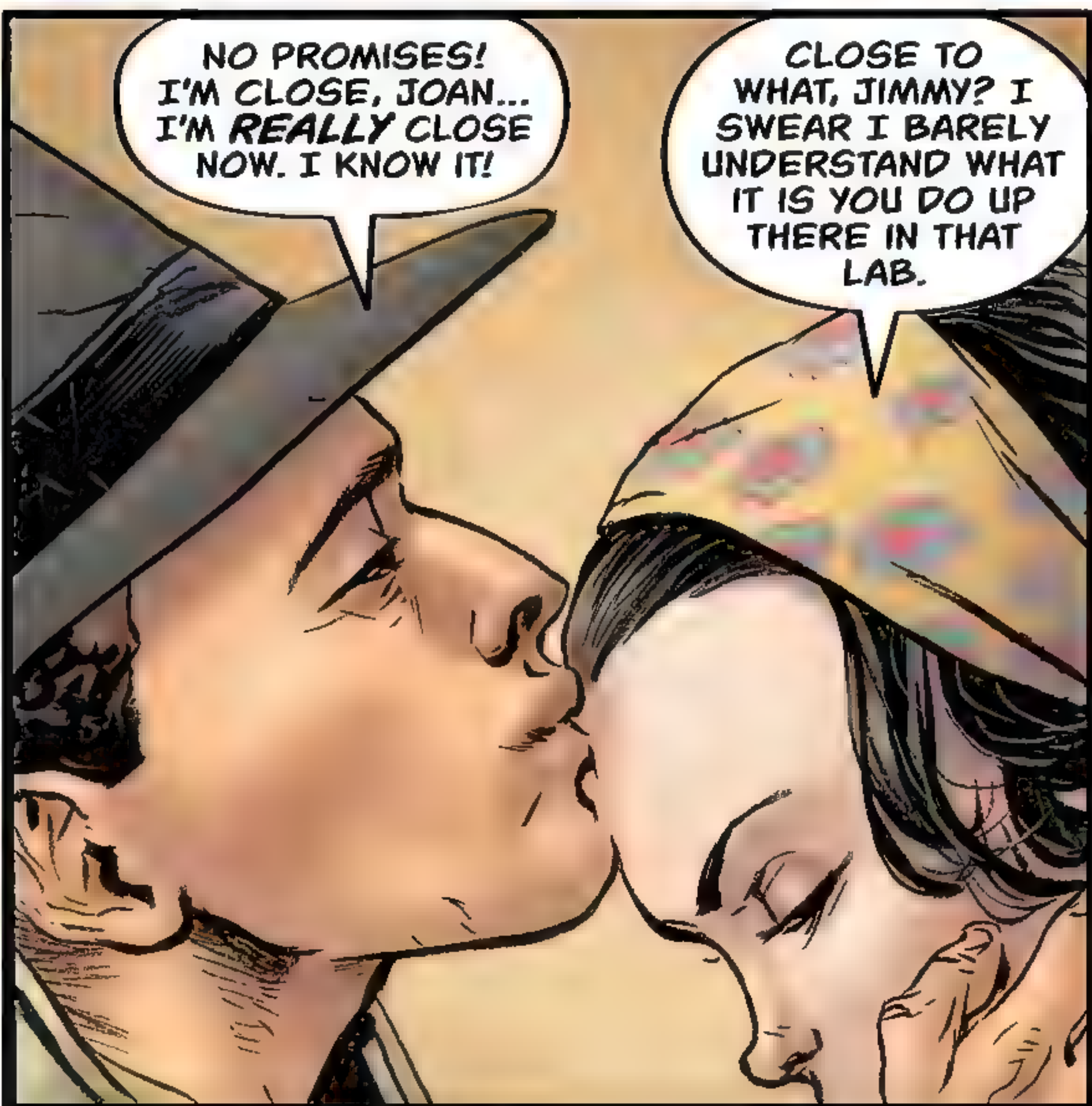
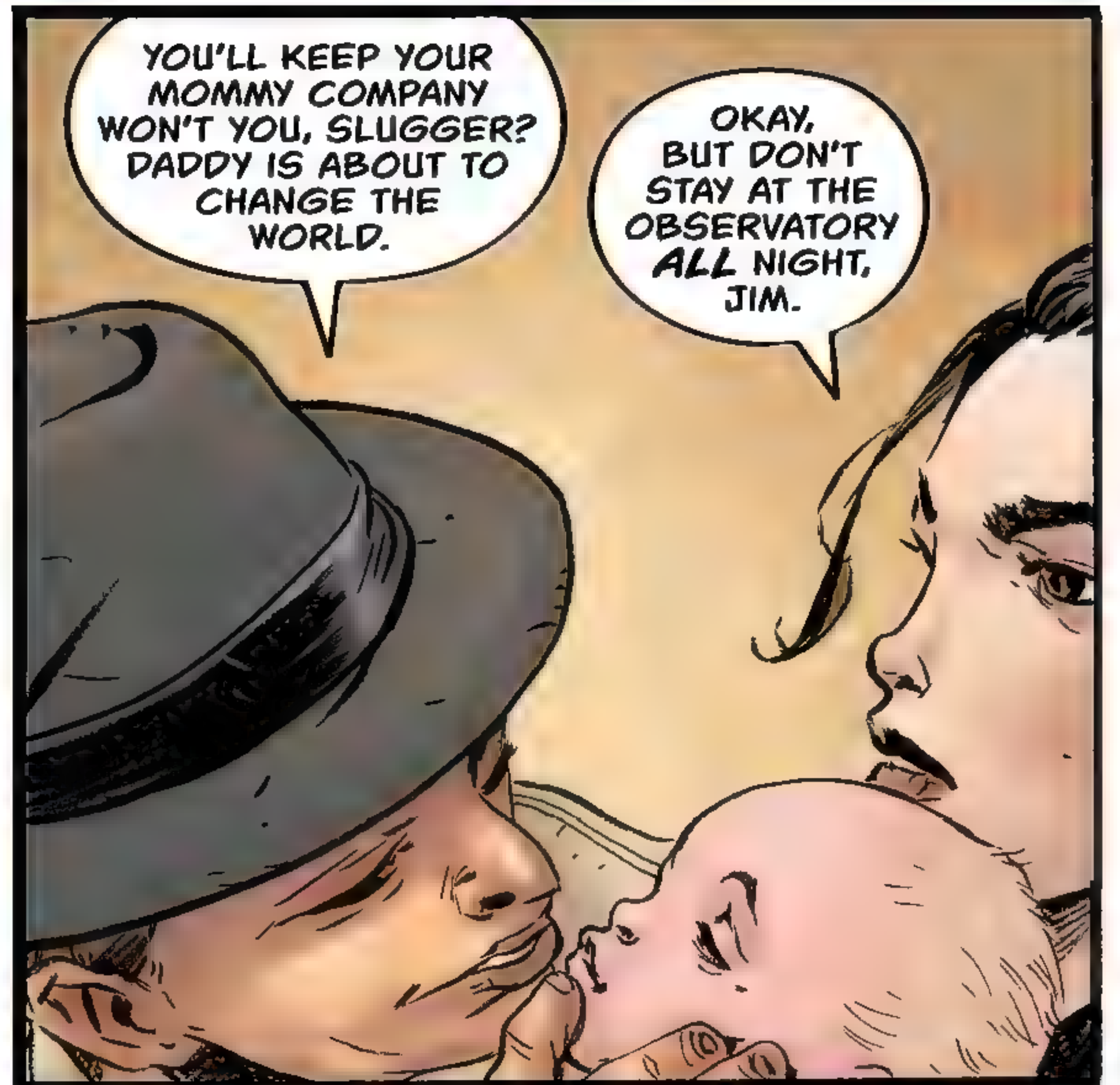
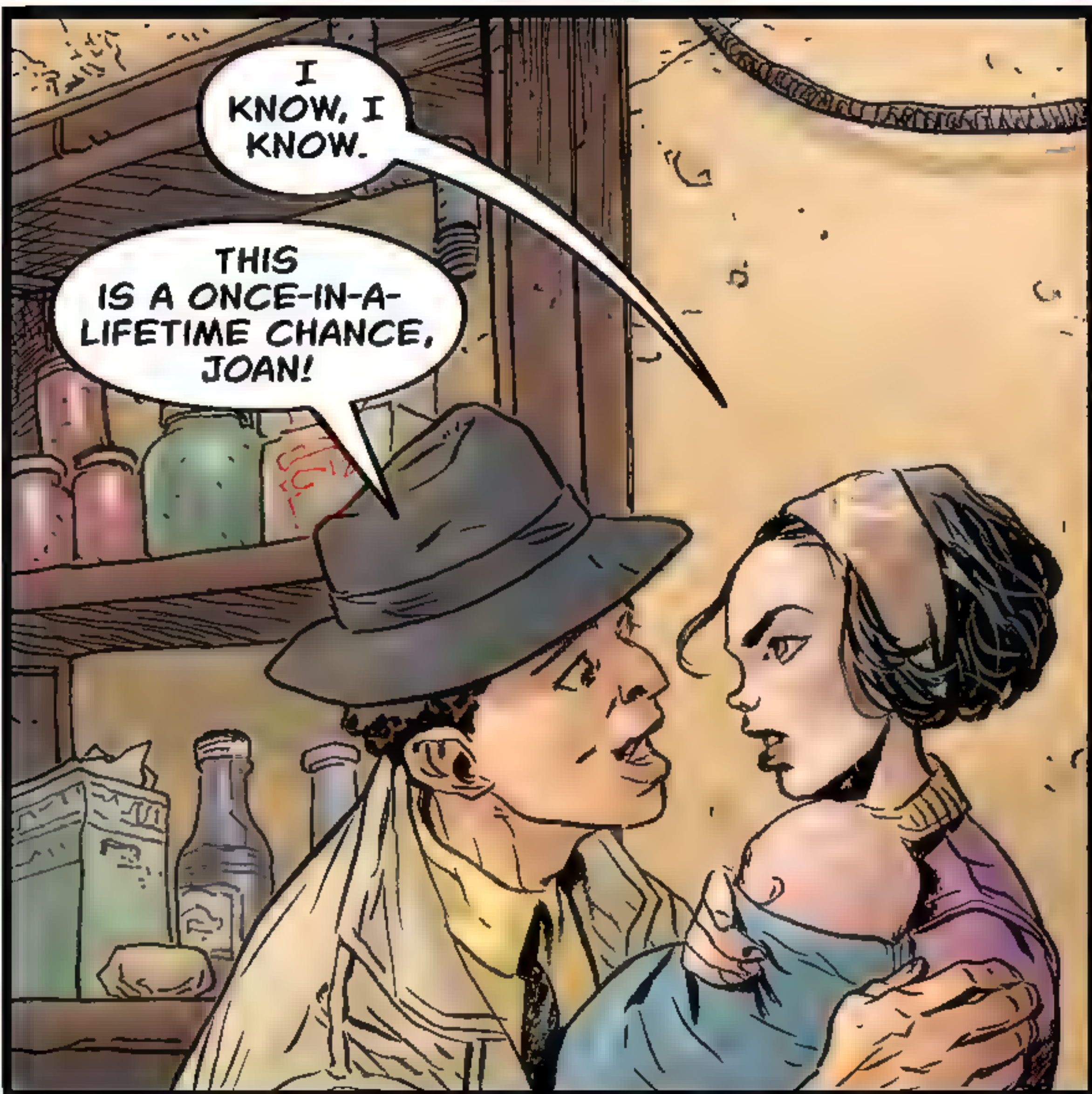
BUT THEY WANT A **WEAPON!**

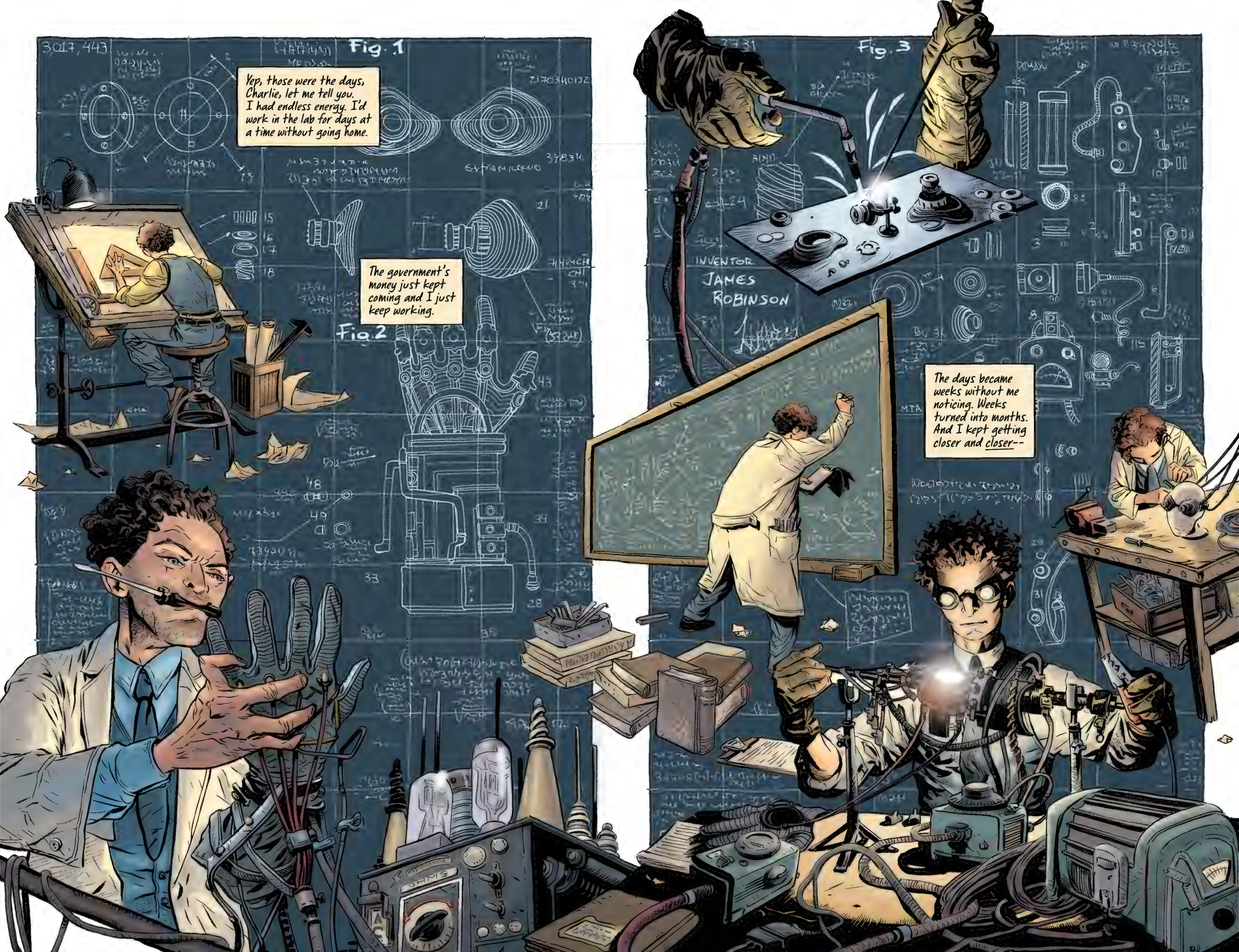
WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A WHOLE NEW ENERGY SOURCE! WEAPONS ARE ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG, JOAN! AND SO WHAT--IF I CAN HELP STOP THE KRAUTS, IS THAT SO BAD?



WHERE ARE YOU GOING NOW?

WHERE AM I GOING?! I'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO WORK, JOANIE!





3017,443

Fig. 1

Yep, those were the days,
Charlie, let me tell you.
I had endless energy. I'd
work in the lab for days at
a time without going home.

The government's
money just kept
coming and I just
keep working.

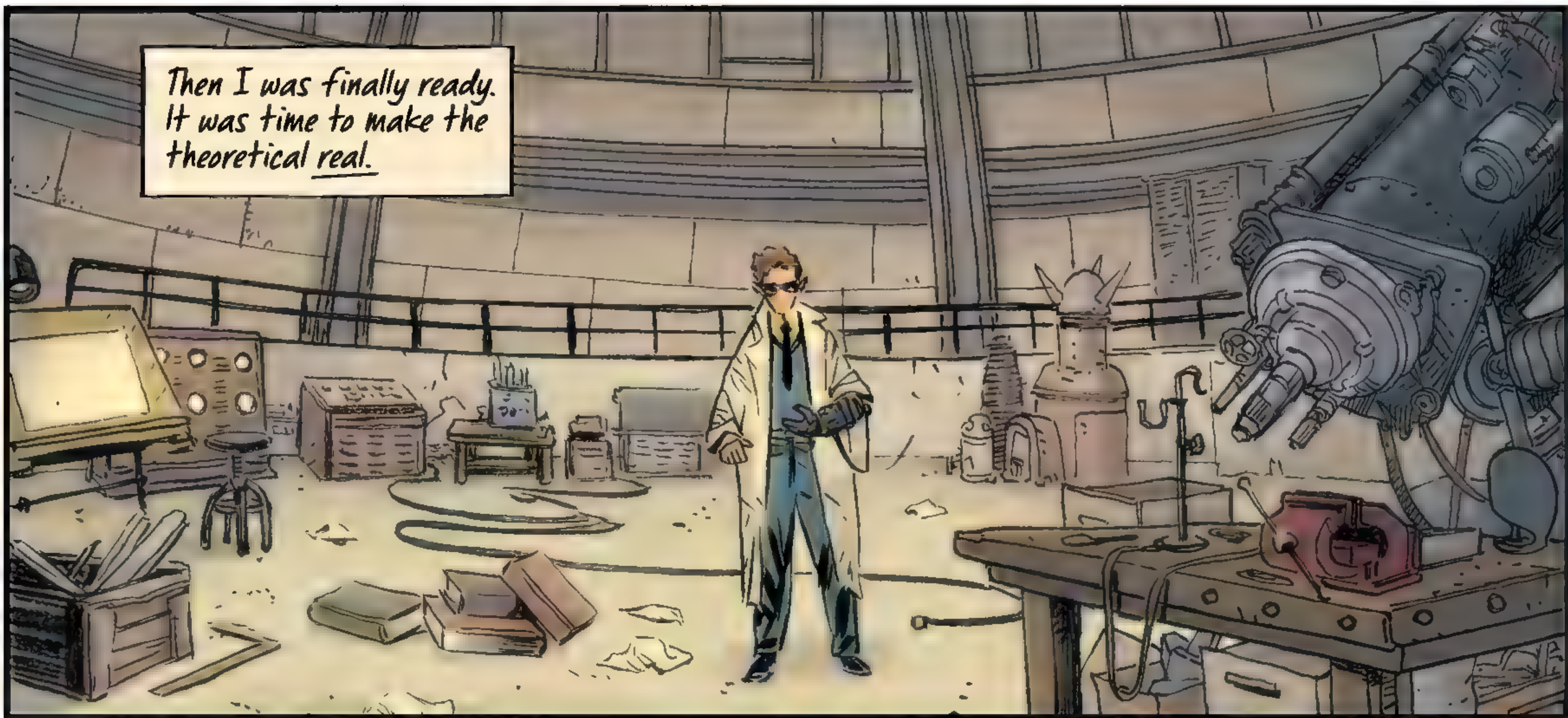
Fig. 2

Fig. 3

INVENTOR
JAMES
ROBINSON

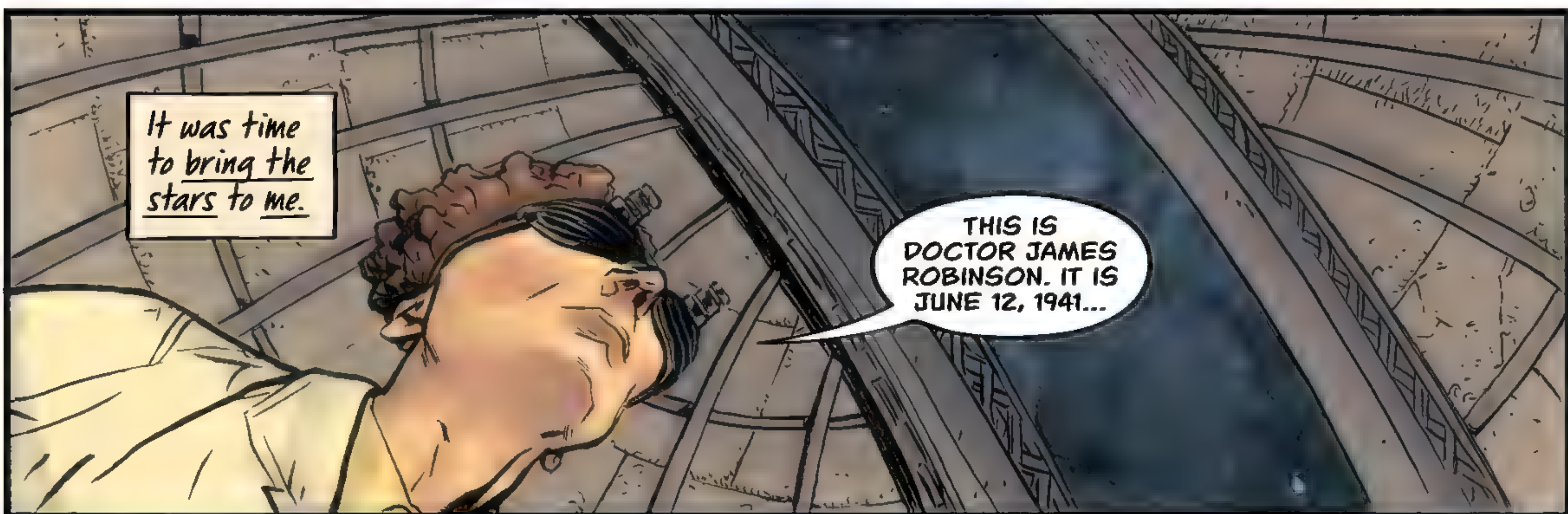
The days became
weeks without me
noticing. Weeks
turned into months.
And I kept getting
closer and closer--

Then I was finally ready.
It was time to make the
theoretical real.



It was time
to bring the
stars to me.

THIS IS
DOCTOR JAMES
ROBINSON. IT IS
JUNE 12, 1941...



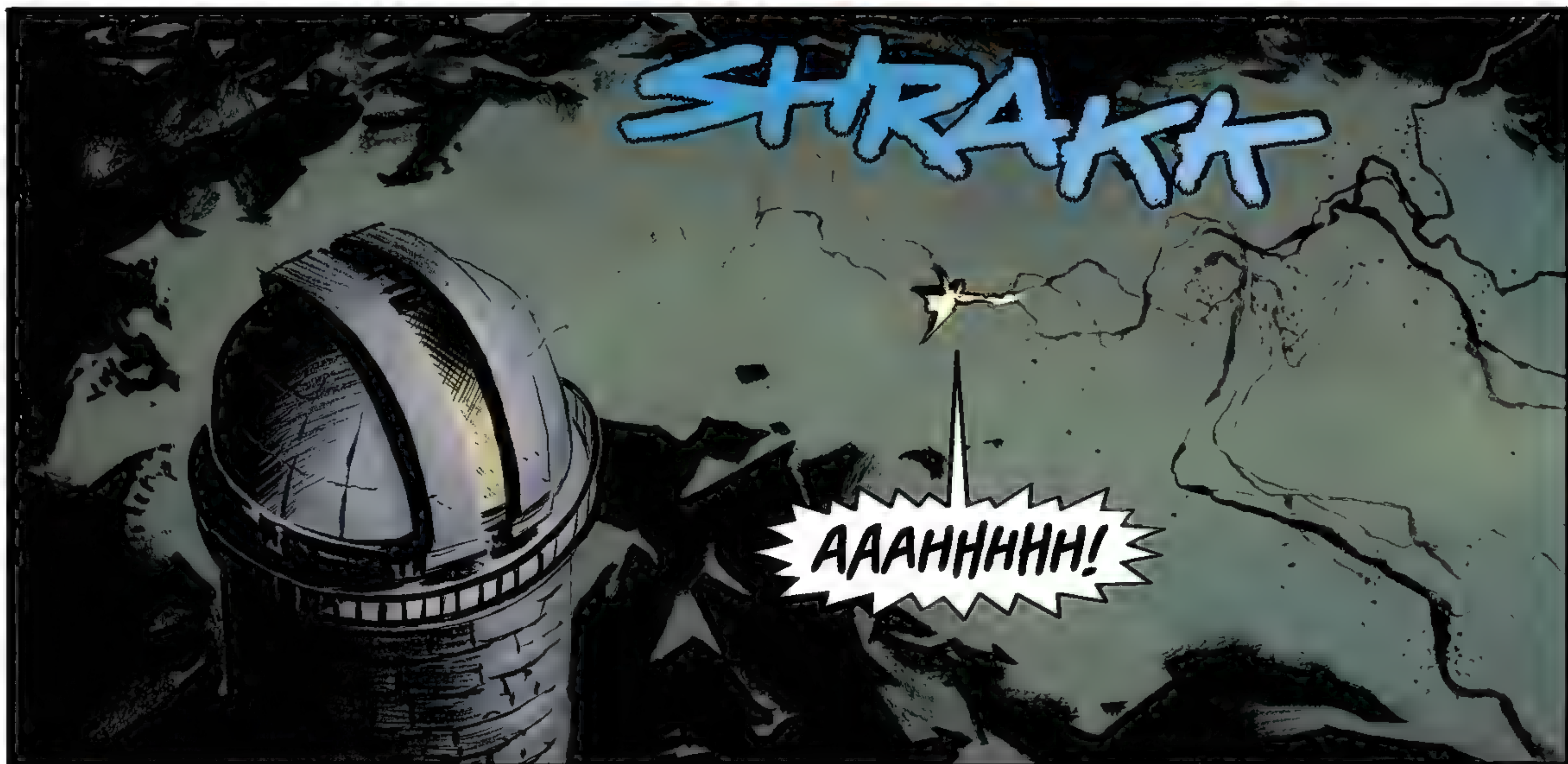
IT'S
MY SON'S FIRST
BIRTHDAY TODAY.
SEEMS LIKE A
LUCKY DAY TO
ME...

SO HERE I
GO, PARA-GAUNTLET
TRIAL NUMBER ONE.
ATTEMPTING TO BREACH
THE DIMENSIONAL
MEMBRANE IN FIVE...
FOUR...THREE...
TWO...ONE...

NOW!

K2ZT





...I went
beyond.





And then--

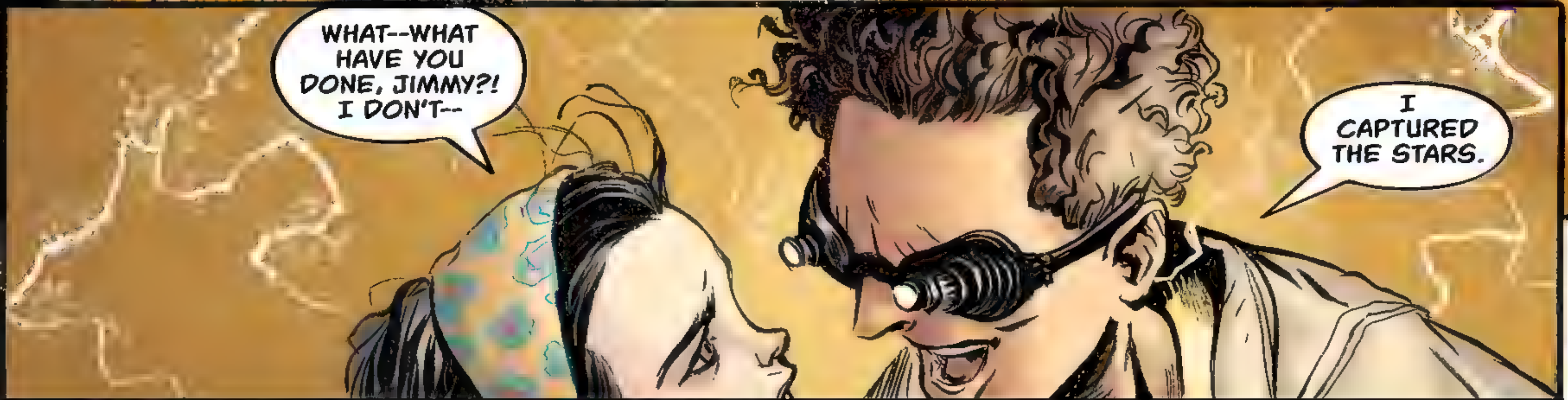


Then I
came home.



J-JIMMY?!

I DID IT,
JOANIE.



WHAT--WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE, JIMMY?!
I DON'T--

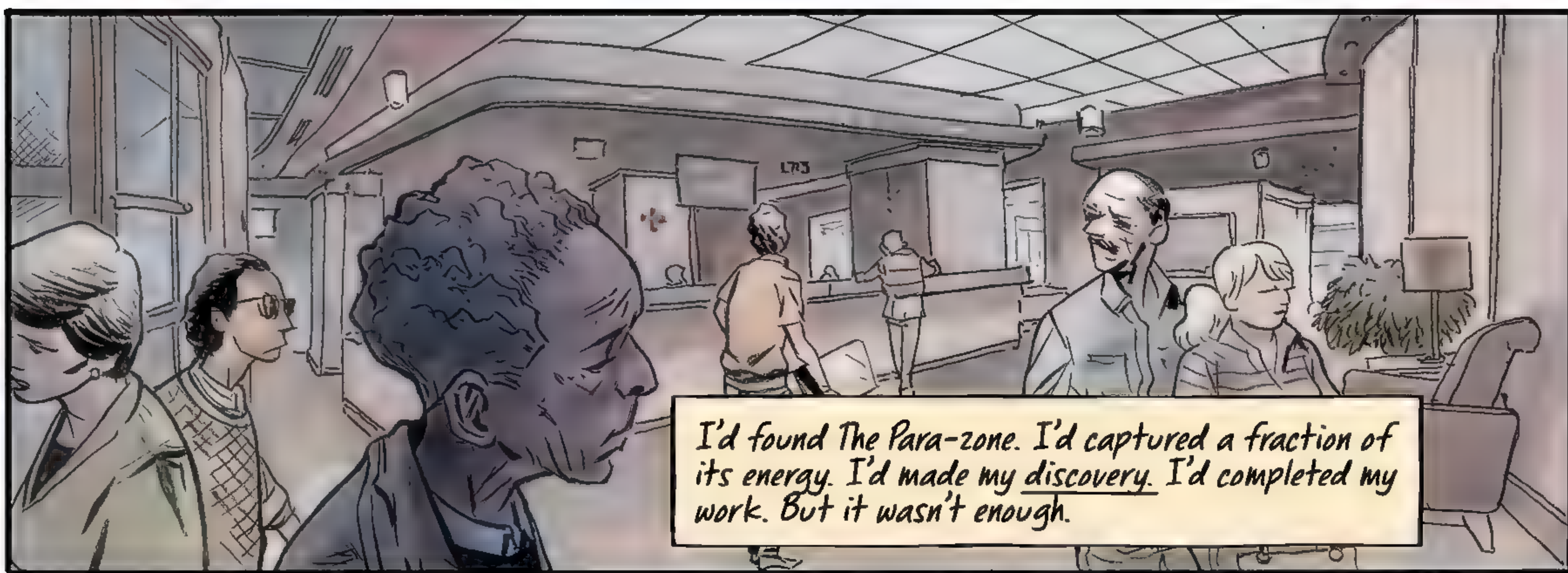
I
CAPTURED
THE STARS.



Christ, I was so arrogant, Charlie. I see that now.



I told Joan that all my work would pay off. That once I succeeded we'd have it made. But that was a lie.



I'd found The Para-zone. I'd captured a fraction of its energy. I'd made my discovery. I'd completed my work. But it wasn't enough.



Because that's the thing, isn't it? Once you touch heaven, you can't be happy until you do it again.



And I'd soon learn there were other ways to get that rush. Until that night I was a scientist. But after...after, I became something more.

1942



OKAY, OKAY, EVERYONE JUST CALM DOWN!

YOU CALM DOWN, ABE. I HAVE THINGS TO DO.

YEAH, ABE. LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD. WE ALL KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE.



ALL RIGHT, WINGMAN, FINE. LET'S JUST CUT THE CRAP THEN. AMERICA HAS GONE TO WAR AND REPORTS SAY THAT HITLER HAS HIS OWN BATCH OF COSTUMED FIGHTERS.

SO, THE QUESTION IS, HOW LONG ARE WE GONNA STAY HERE IN SPIRAL CITY AND WATCH OUR BOYS DIE FROM AFAR?



YOU ARE OMITTING A VERY IMPORTANT DETAIL, ABRAHAM.

CAPTAIN NIGHT IS RIGHT. THE POWER OF HITLER'S SUPER SOLDIER IS SAID TO RIVAL ANY OF OURS.

DOCTOR DAY AND I FEEL WE MAY BE BETTER SERVED HERE, FIGHTING ON THE HOME FRONT.



I HAVE ALREADY DIED ONCE. I DO NOT FEAR DYING AGAIN.

UH-HUH. CREEPY AS HE IS, I AGREE WITH THE HORSELESS RIDER. LET'S GO KICK HITLER'S BUTT.



OKAY. WELL, THIS IS AMERICA, SO LET'S DO THIS THE DEMOCRATIC WAY. WE'LL VOTE. ALL THOSE WHO ARE FOR JOINING THE WAR IN EUROPE SAY "AYE."



When the government came to me they had asked for a weapon.

AYE.

YEP.

INDEED



I found something much more than that. I found a miracle.

WINGMAN? I UNDERSTAND CAPTAIN NIGHT AND DOCTOR DAY WANTING TO SIT THIS ONE OUT--AFTER ALL, THEY HAVE TWINS AT HOME. BUT YOU?

IF WE ALL GO TO EUROPE, THE SUPER CROOKS HERE WILL RUN WILD. I MEAN, IF WE ALL AGREE, I'LL GO, BUT--



AGREED--

WE WILL GO IF THE MAJORITY WILLS IT.



WELL, WE'RE REALLY IN A DILLY OF A PICKLE NOW. WE GOT A TIE, SO--



But a miracle wasn't enough for me...

I SAY WE GO...

...So I became
the weapon.

...LET'S
SEND THOSE
NAZIS BACK
TO HELL.

WHO THE
HECK ARE
YOU?

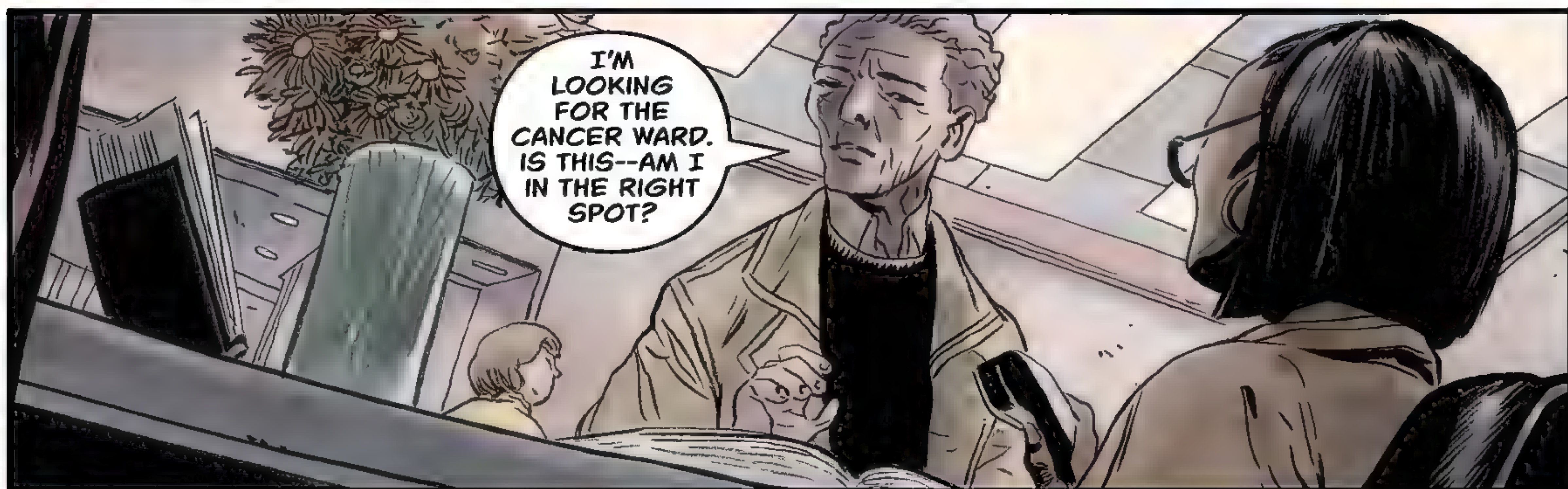
ANDROMEDA.
CALL ME
DOCTOR
ANDROMEDA.



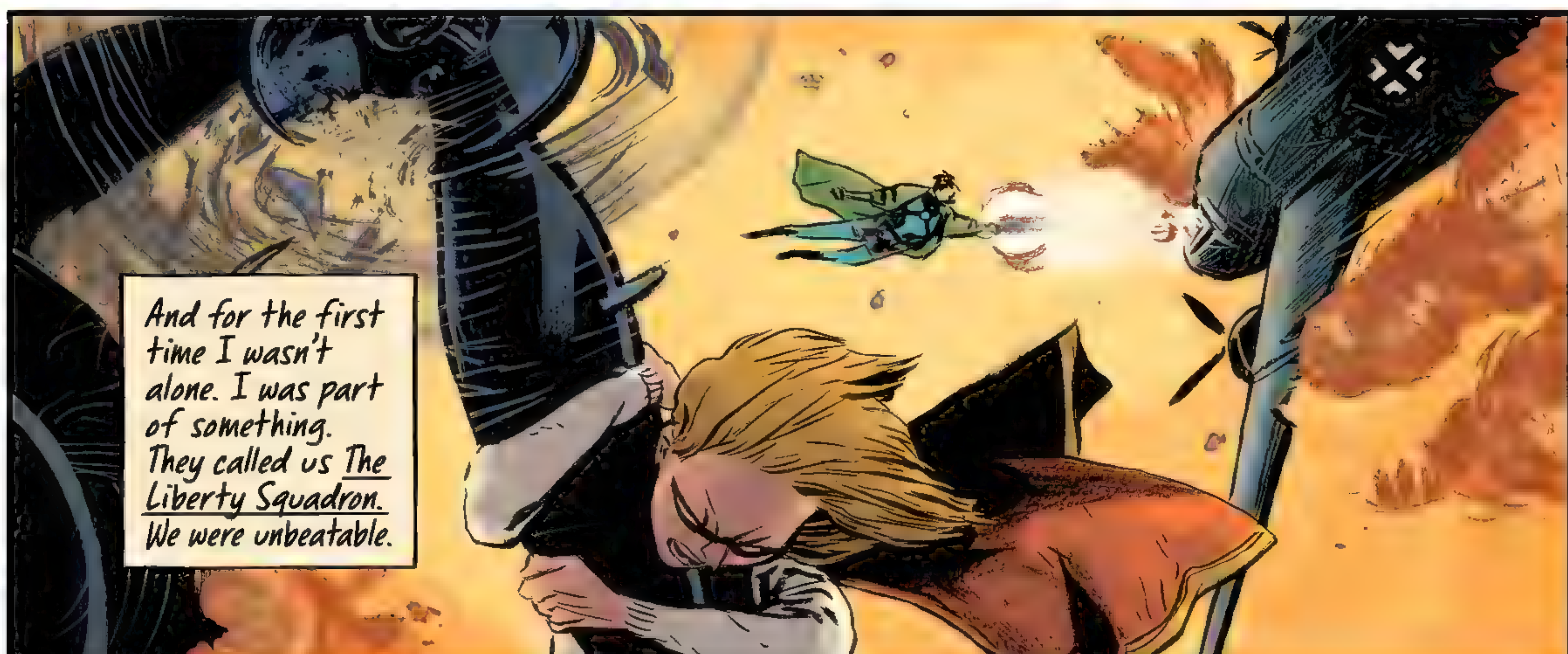
Yep, those were the golden days, Charlie. Sure, the war was terrible, but still-- I'd never felt so alive.



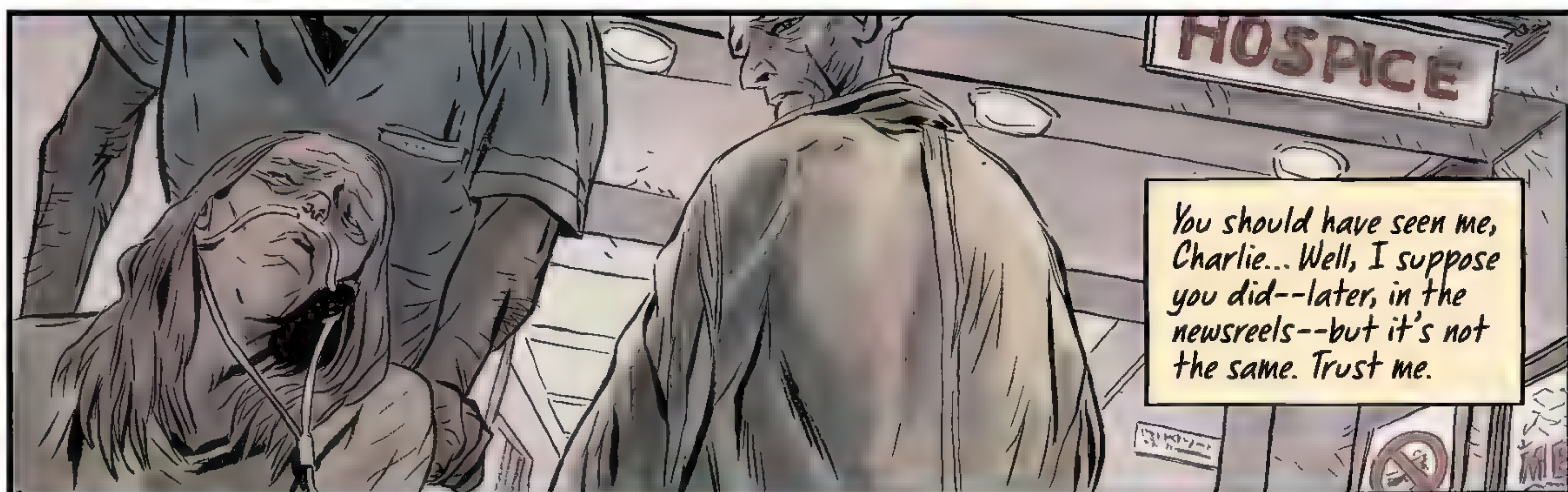
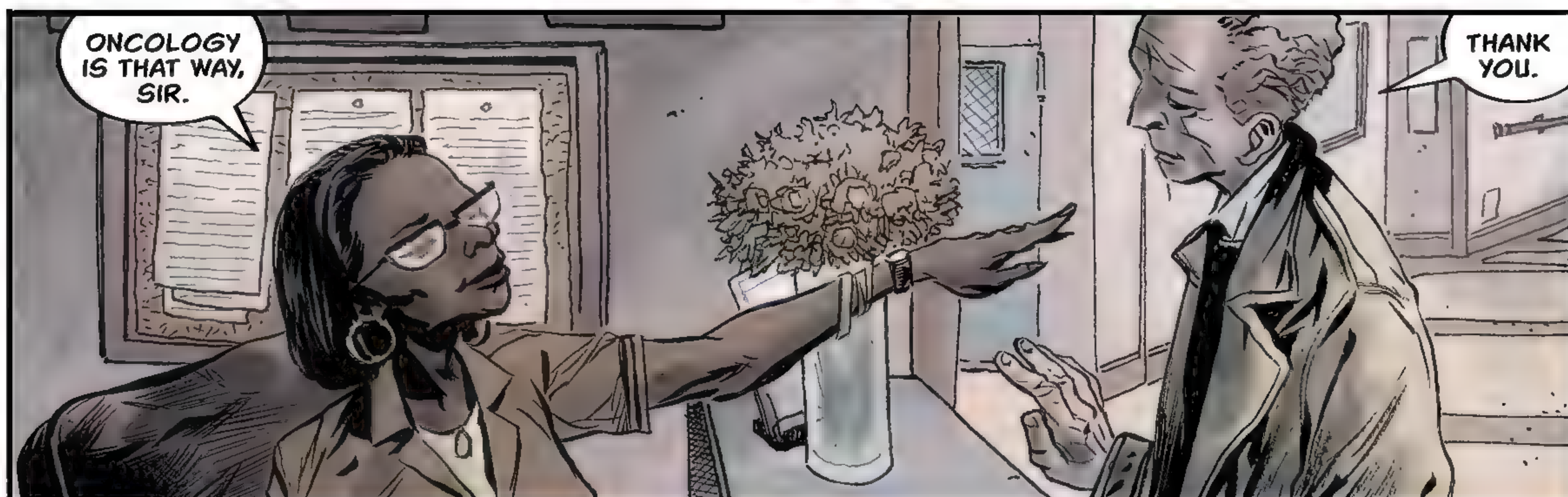
All those years with my nose stuck in a book, or hunched over a microscope in my lab...I was suddenly set free.



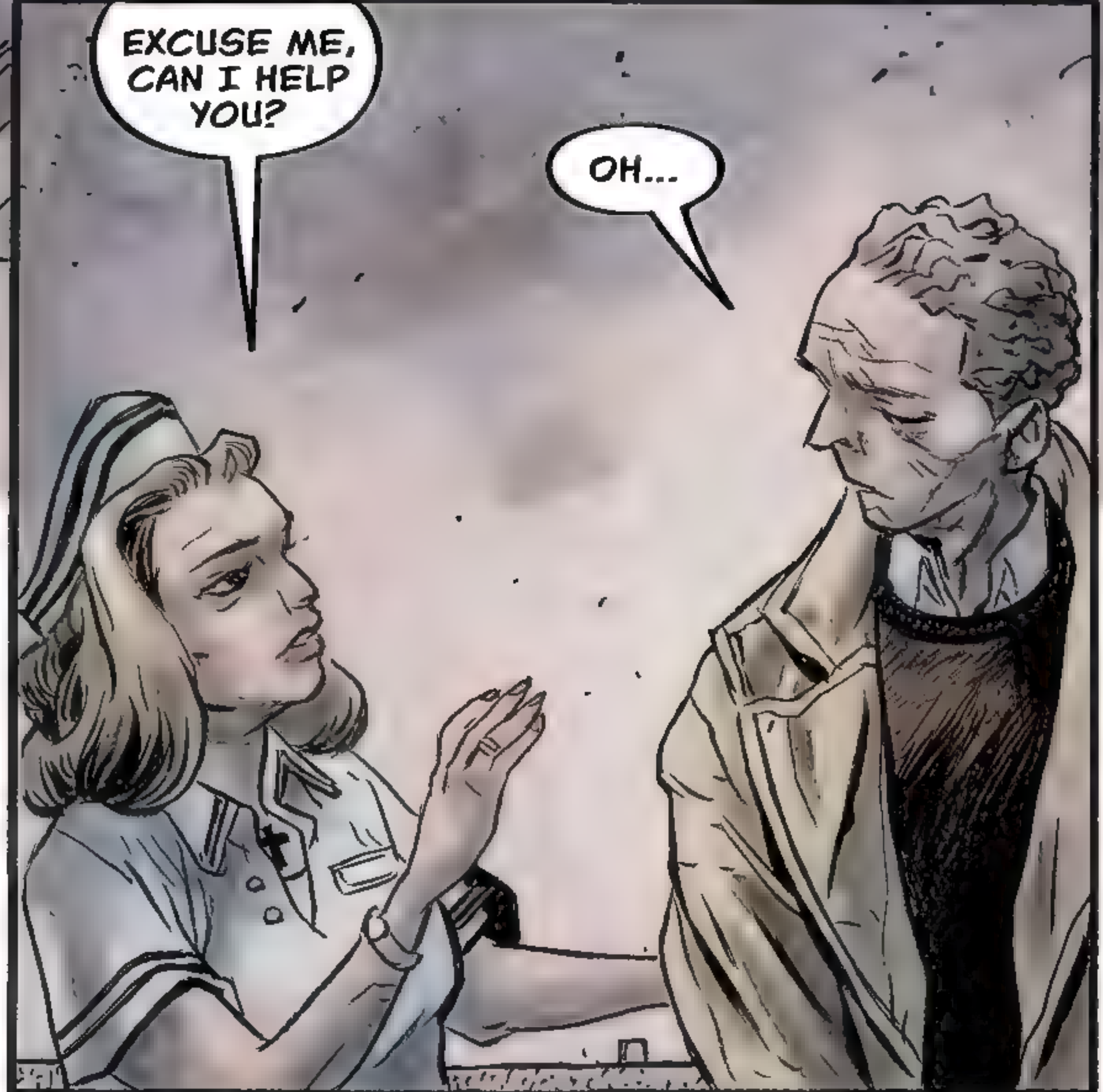
I'M LOOKING FOR THE CANCER WARD. IS THIS--AM I IN THE RIGHT SPOT?



And for the first time I wasn't alone. I was part of something. They called us The Liberty Squadron. We were unbeatable.



Yet here I am, all these years later. It all seems like a dream now. It hardly seems like I was ever that man, Charlie.



EXCUSE ME, CAN I HELP YOU?

OH...



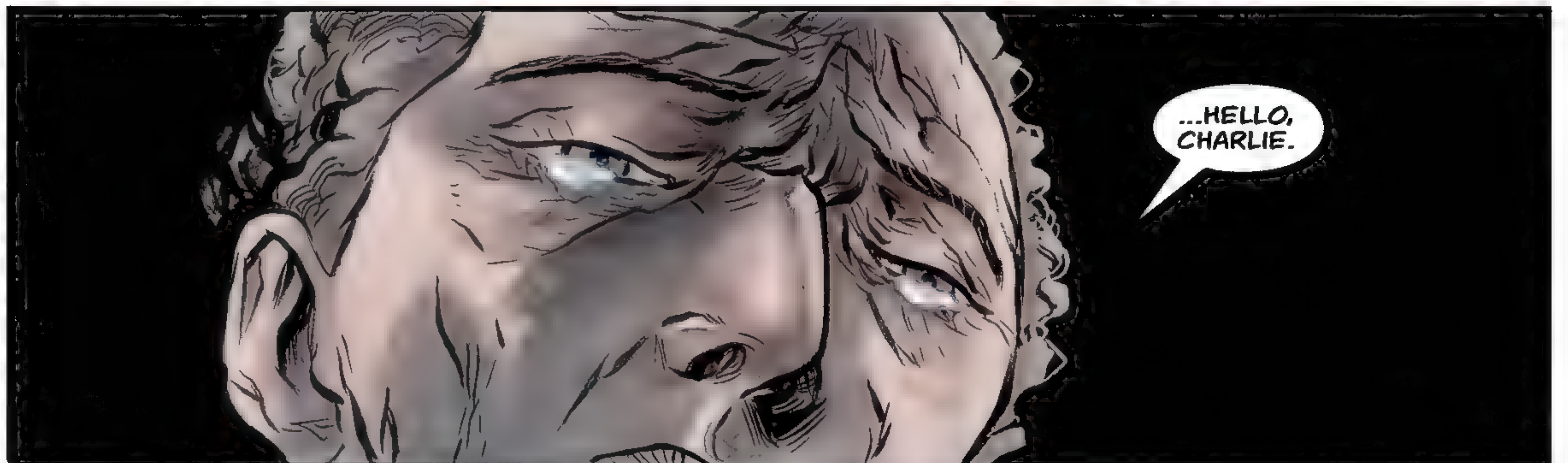
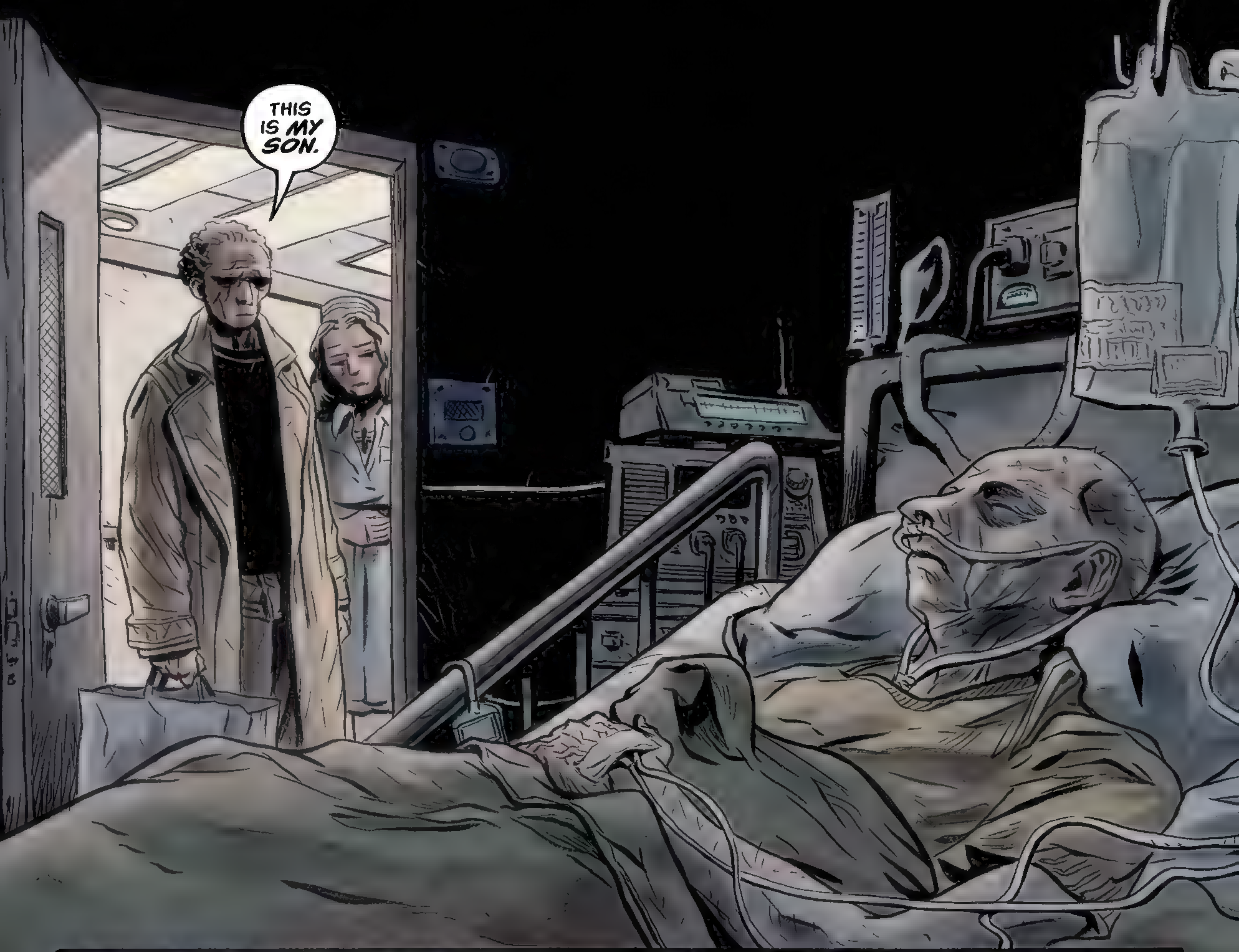
I, UH... I JUST CAME TO VISIT THIS PATIENT.



WELL, YOU CAN'T JUST WALK IN HERE. THE HOSPICE WARD IS FOR **FAMILY ONLY.**




BUT HE **IS** MY FAMILY...





CHAPTER TWO





Charlie. Seeing you like this...I barely know what to say anymore...what to think.

You're my only son. This--this doesn't make any sense. It's not supposed to be like this.

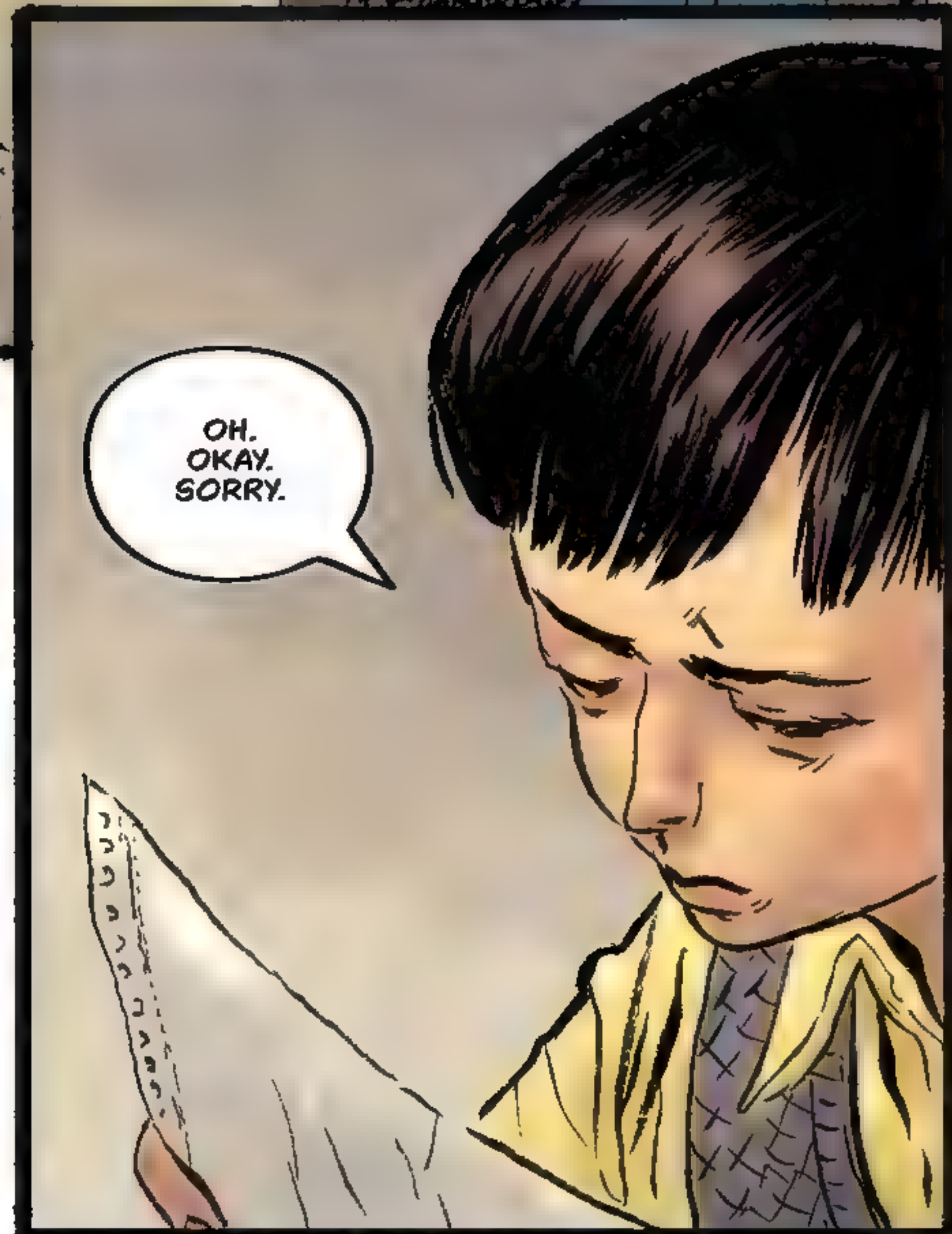
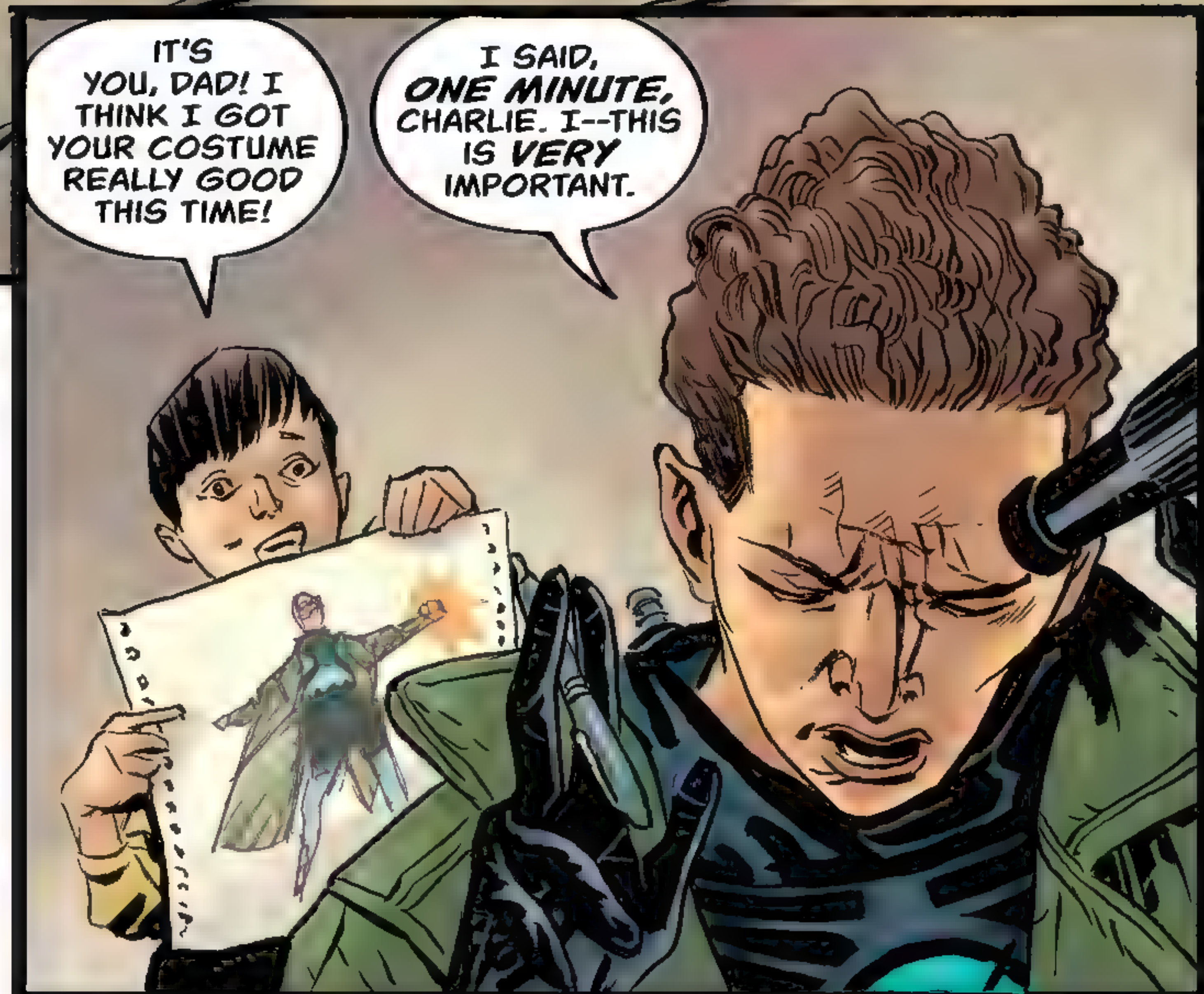
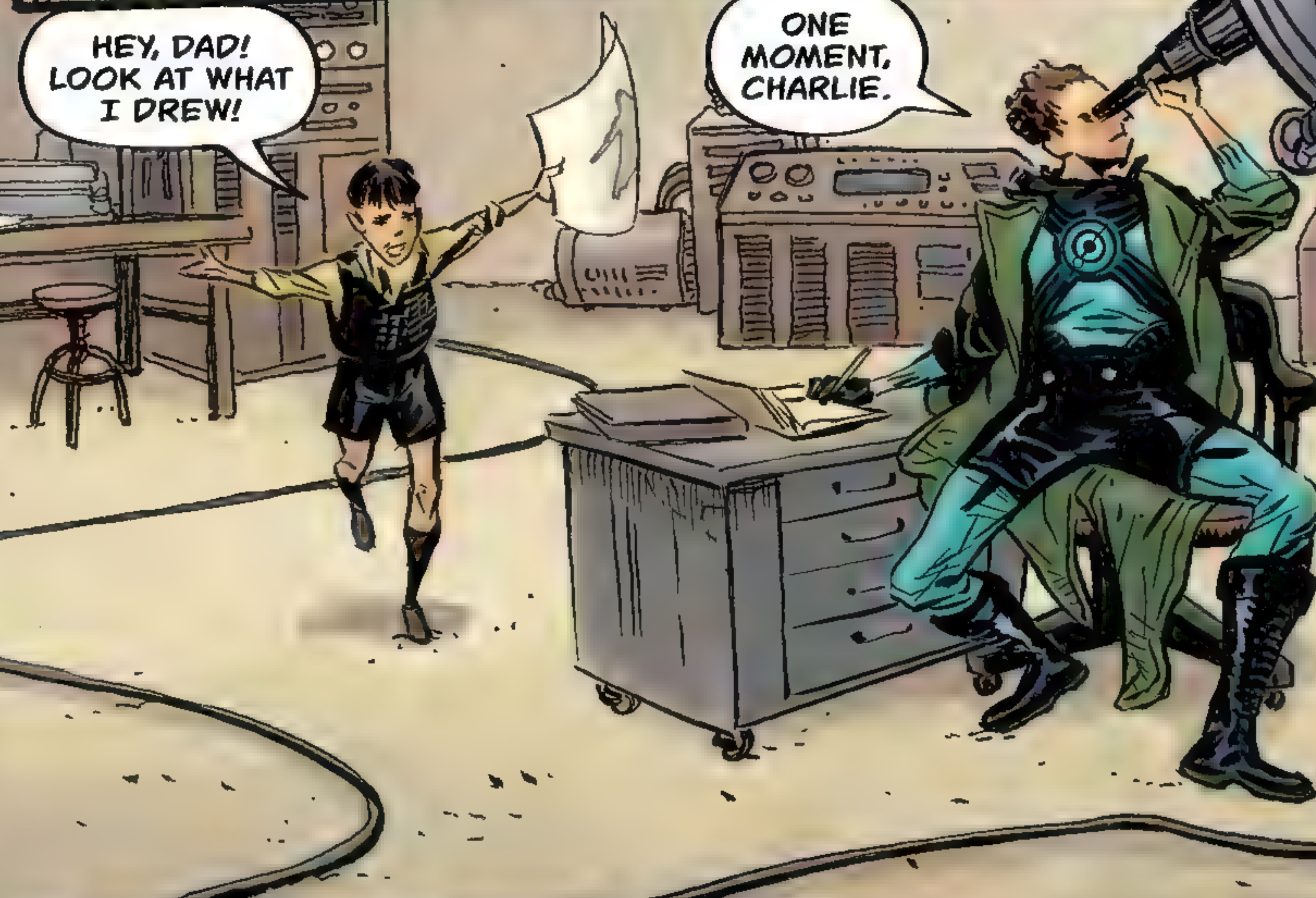
I'm supposed to be the one that gets old and dies. You're supposed to be the one standing over my bedside.

But nothing happened like it was supposed to, did it?

I threw normal out the door the day I put that damn costume on.

And you, Charlie...you never had a choice in the matter...

1951



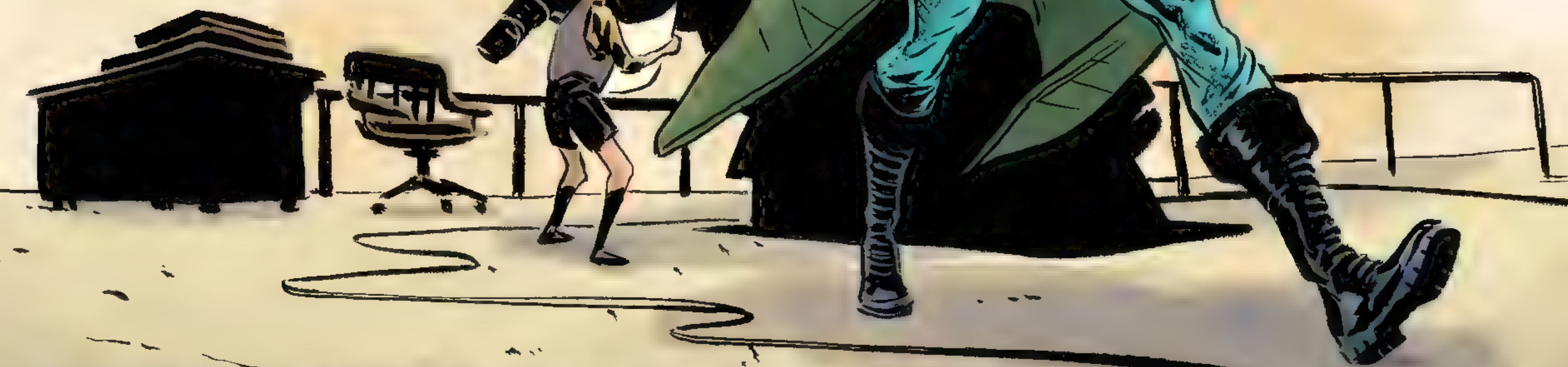


MY GOD!

CHARLIE, I DID IT! I--I ACTUALLY DID IT!

DID WHAT, DAD?

LIFE, CHARLIE! I FOUND **OTHER LIFE** OUT THERE! AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST AN ASTRAL ANOMALY, BUT THERE IS NO DENYING IT ANY LONGER!



I PLACED A TRANSPONDER ON THE MOON AND I'VE BEEN SENDING SIGNALS, AND NOW THEY'VE **RESPONDED!** THEY ARE OUT THERE! THEY ARE **CALLING TO ME!**

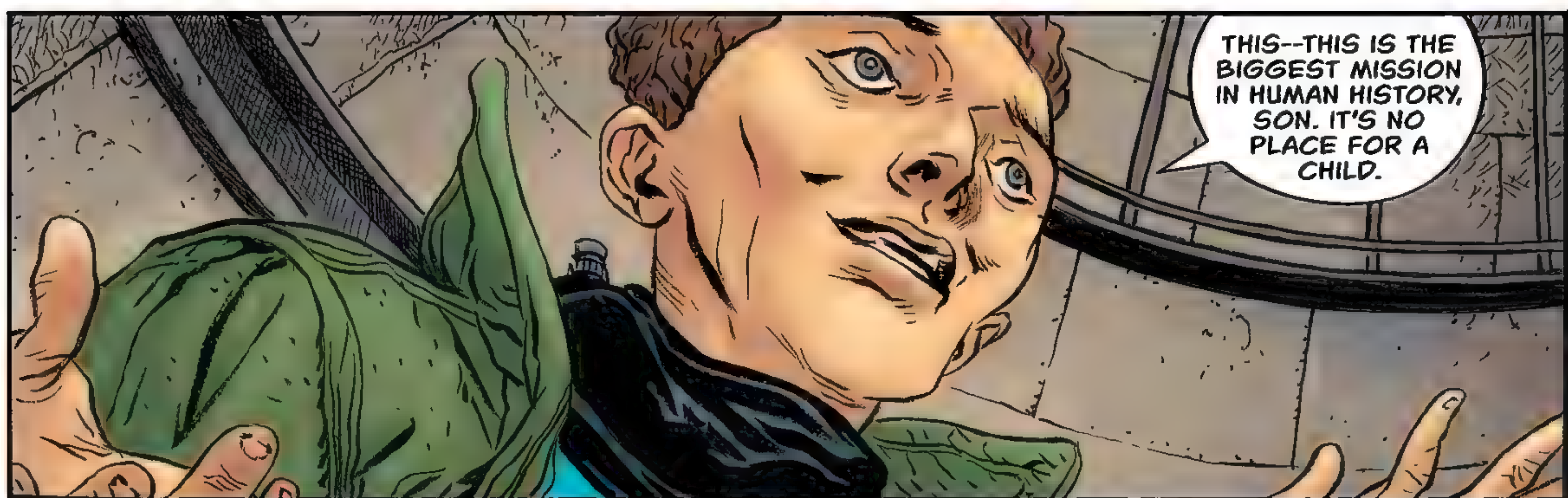
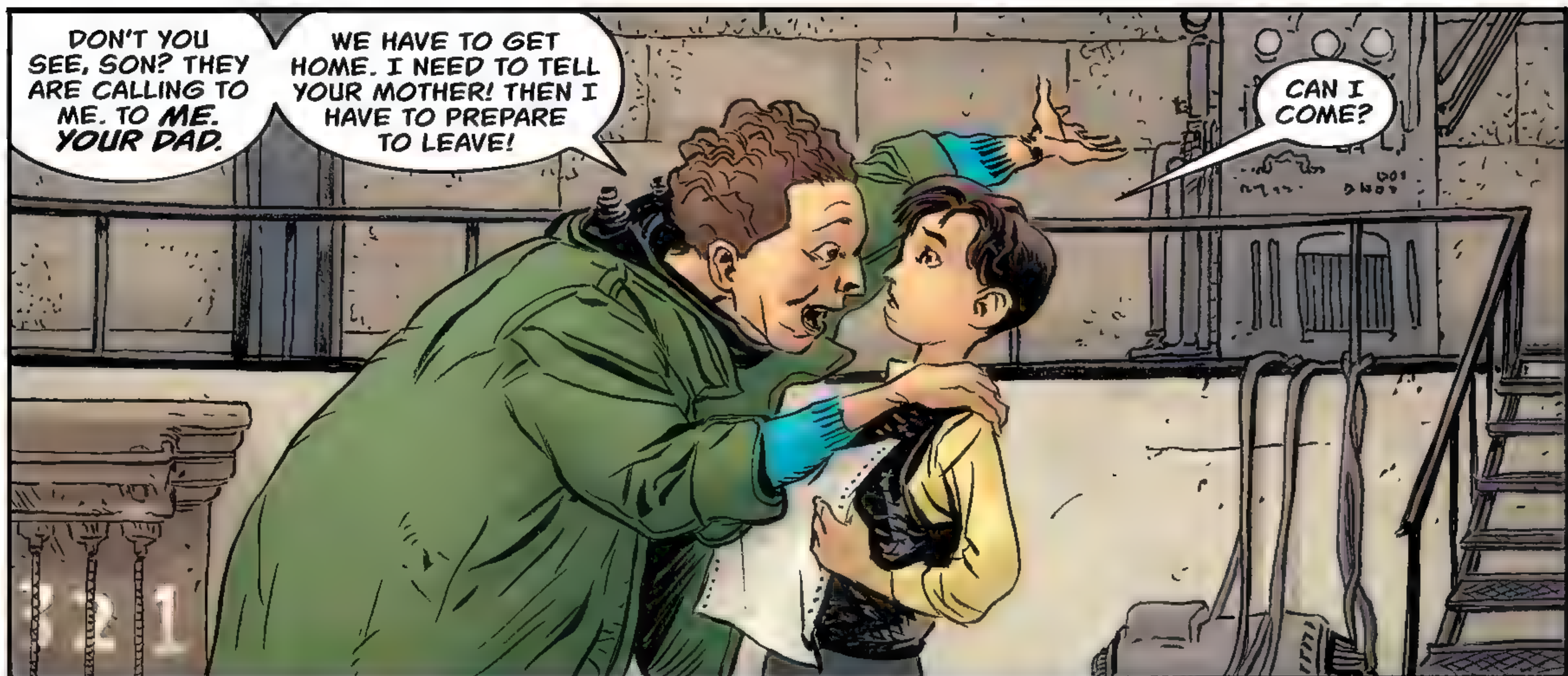


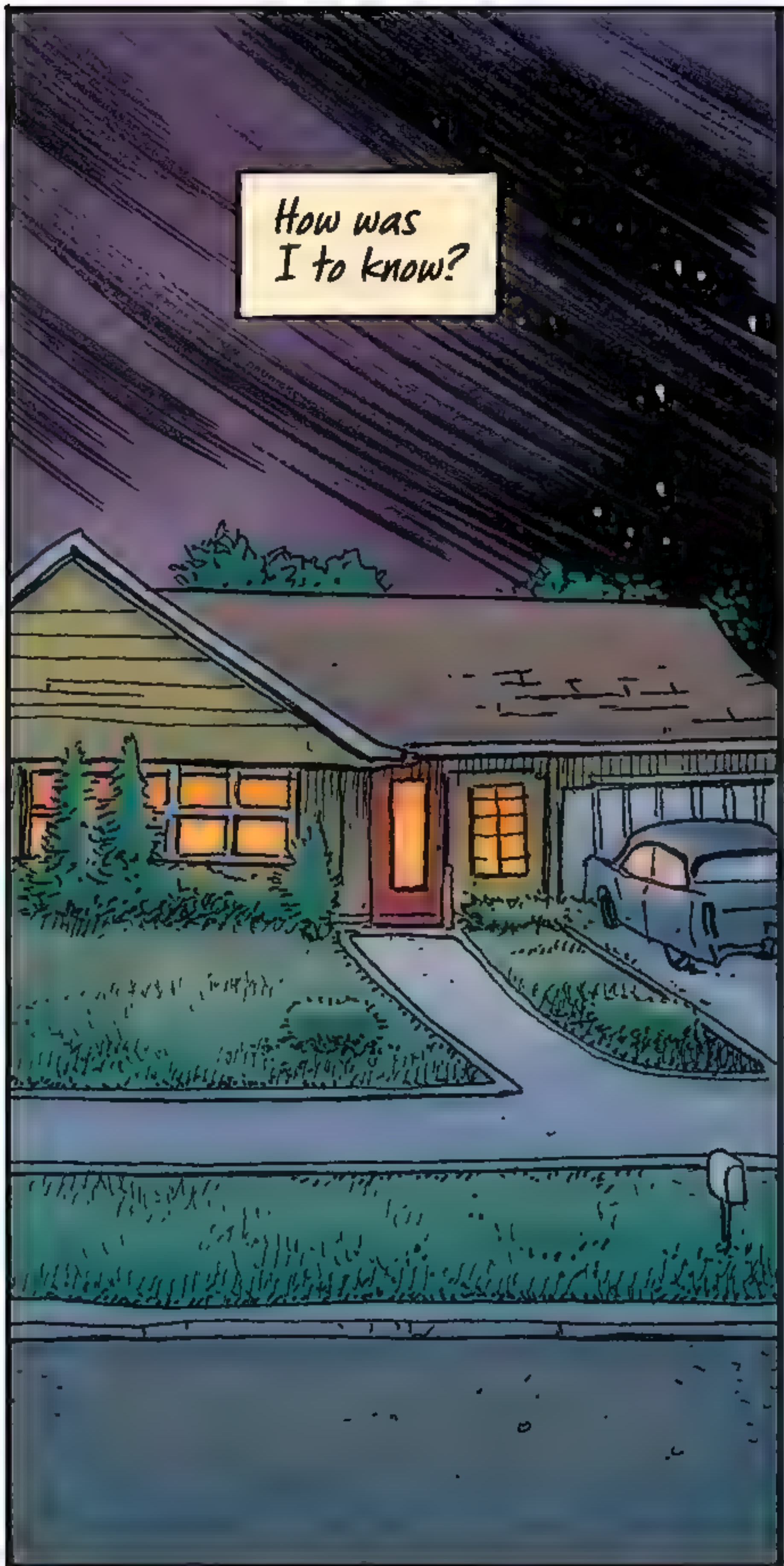
YOU MEAN, LIKE, MARTIANS, DAD?



WHAT? NO, NO. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS MARTIANS, CHARLIE. THIS ISN'T SOME SILLY DRIVE-IN MOVIE WITH LITTLE GREEN MEN. I AM TALKING ABOUT REAL INTELLIGENT LIFE OUT THERE.

OH.





How was I to know?



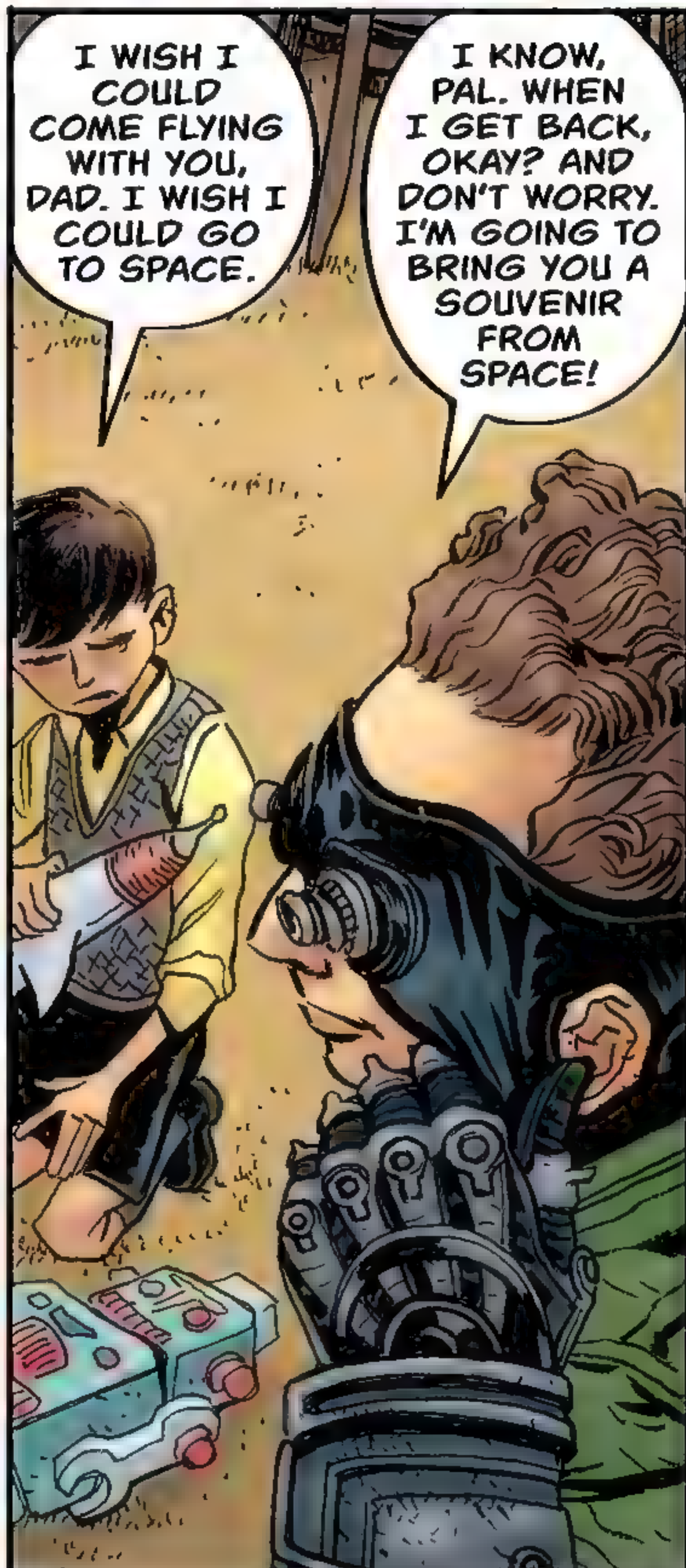
BUT, JIMMY, I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE GOING OFF ALONE. WHAT IF THESE--THESE ALIENS MEAN YOU HARM? WHAT IF THEY WANT TO--I DON'T KNOW--**INVADE US?!**



JOANIE, YOU'RE AS BAD AS CHARLIE. BESIDES, WE BOTH KNOW I CAN HANDLE MYSELF.

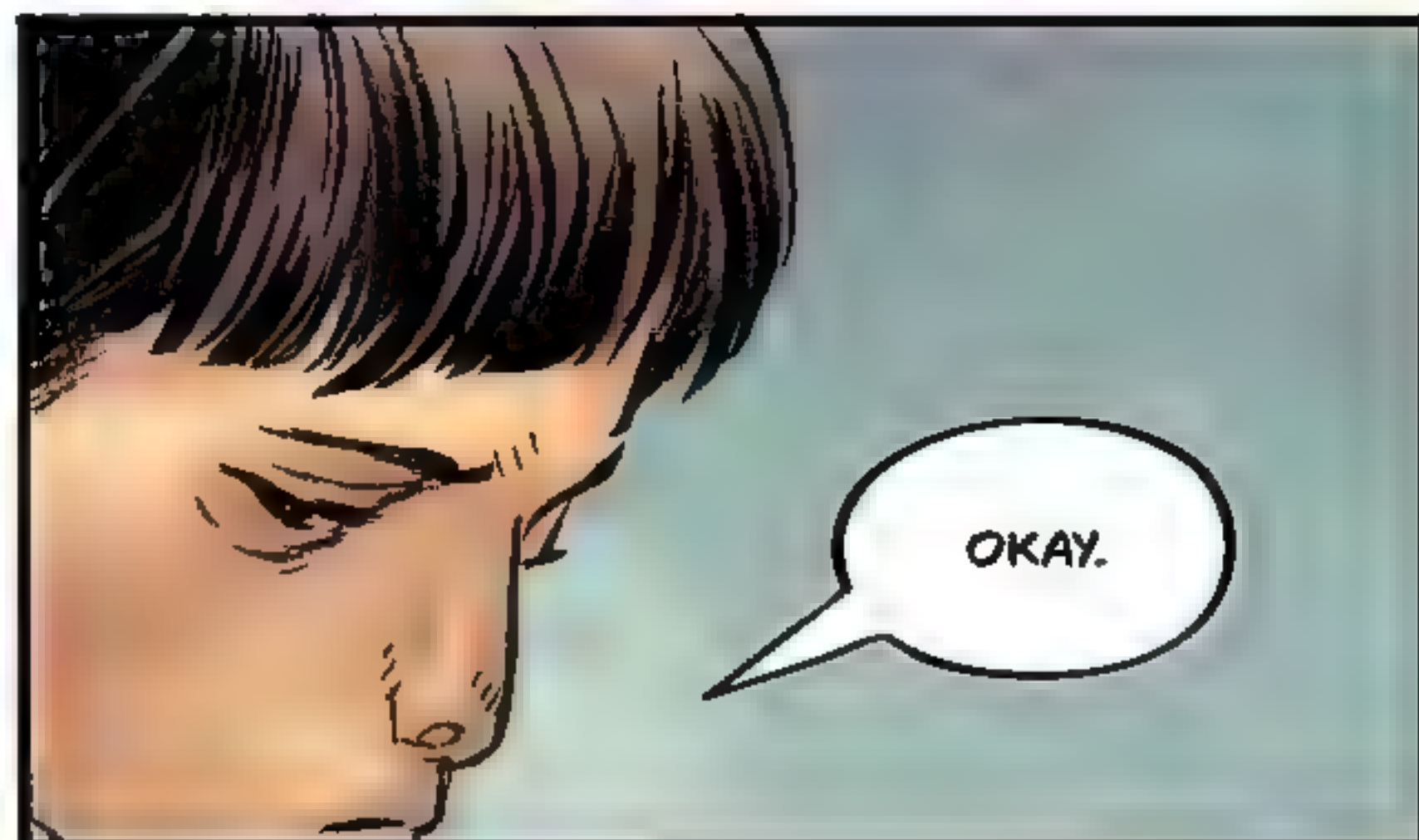
I KNOW, IT'S JUST...

JOAN, I LOVE YOU. AND I'LL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT. I AM JUST GOING TO MAKE INITIAL CONTACT AND THEN COME HOME AND MAKE MY REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT.



I WISH I COULD COME FLYING WITH YOU, DAD. I WISH I COULD GO TO SPACE.

I KNOW, PAL. WHEN I GET BACK, OKAY? AND DON'T WORRY. I'M GOING TO BRING YOU A SOUVENIR FROM SPACE!

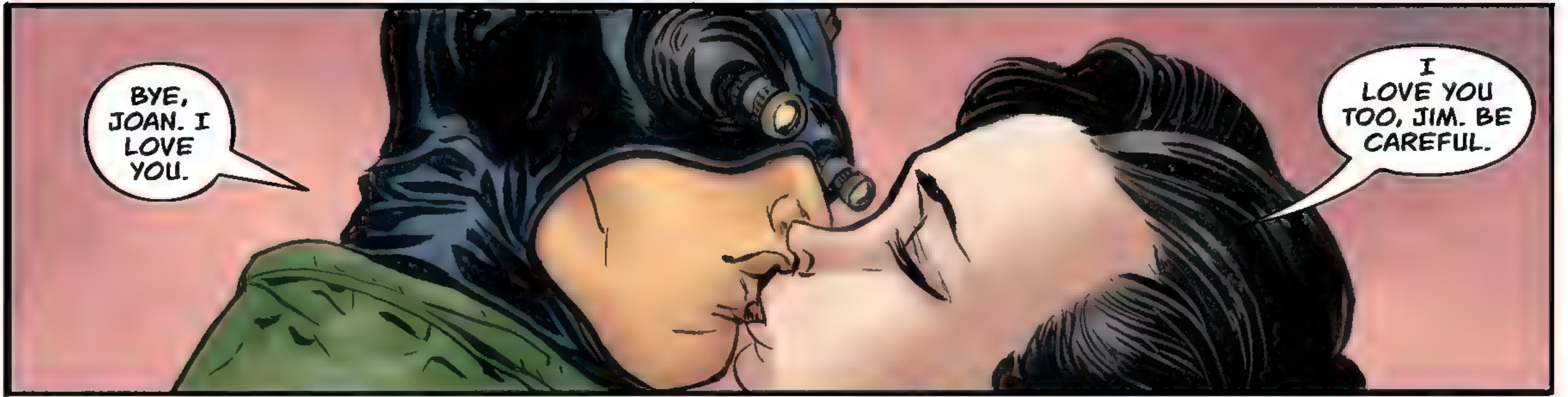


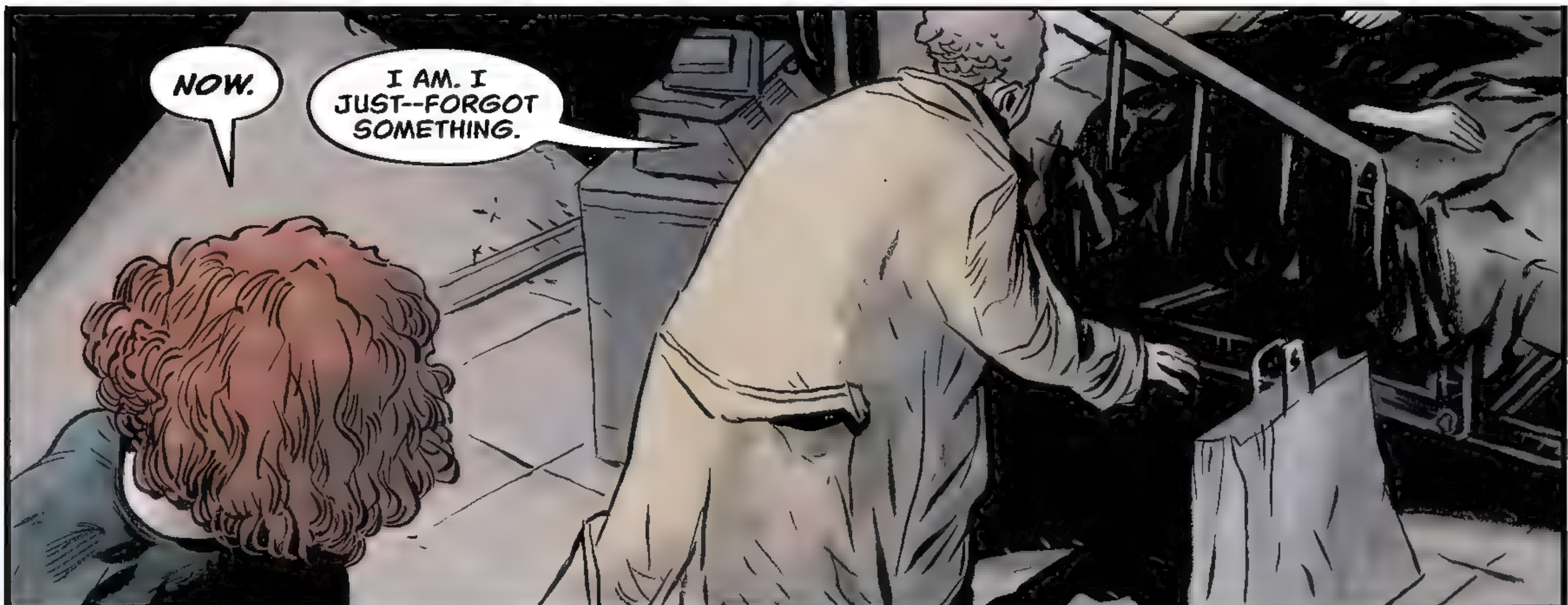
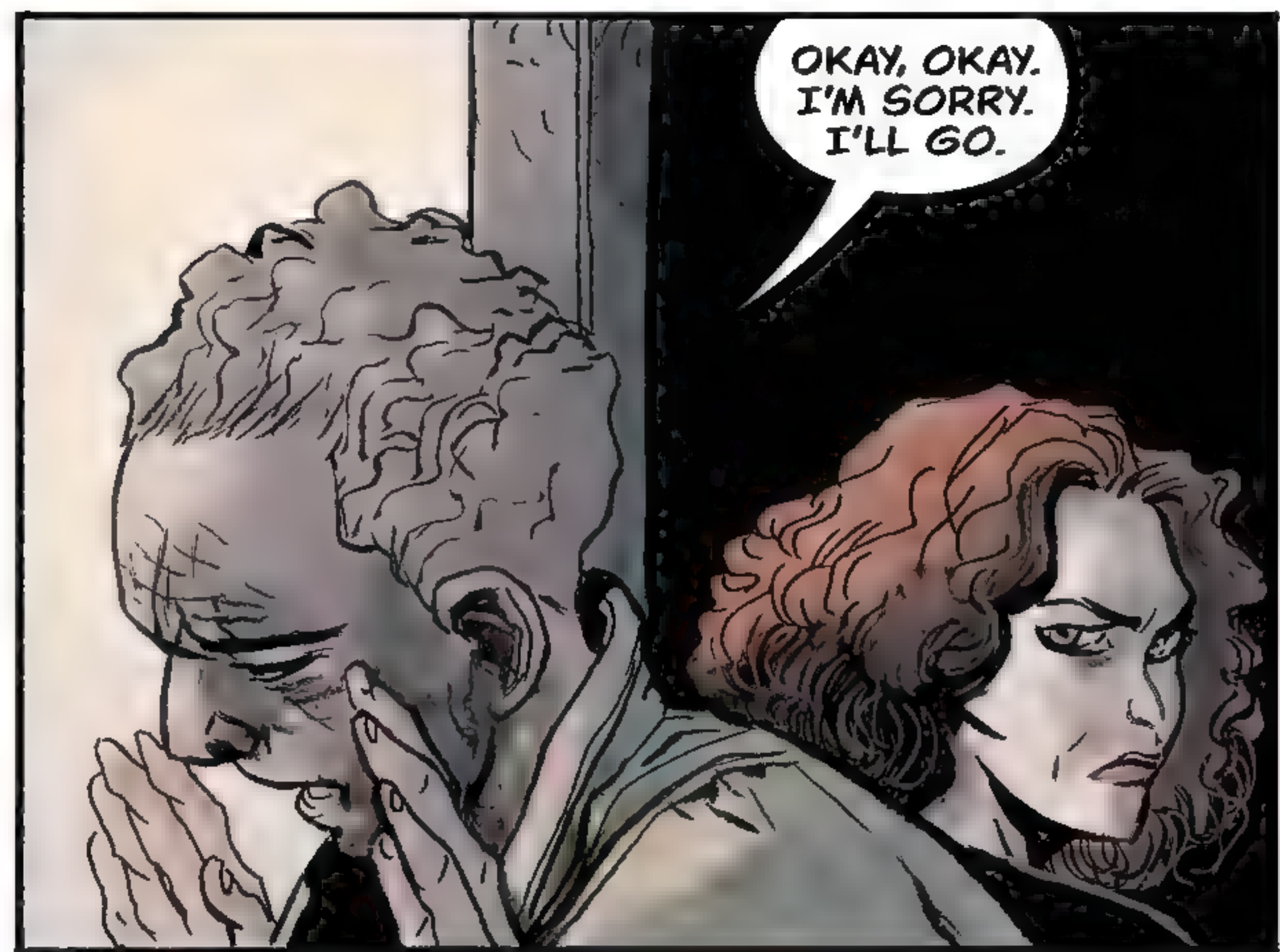
OKAY.



NOW, I NEED YOU TO BUCK UP, MISTER. YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE MAN OF THE HOUSE UNTIL I GET BACK! GOT IT?

YES.







I ONLY WANTED TO SEE HIM.

WELL, HE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE *YOU*. I AM GOING TO TALK TO THE NURSES. YOU WON'T BE LET BACK IN HERE.



LOOK, RACHEL. I KNOW YOU AND I HAVE NEVER SEEN EYE TO EYE, BUT--

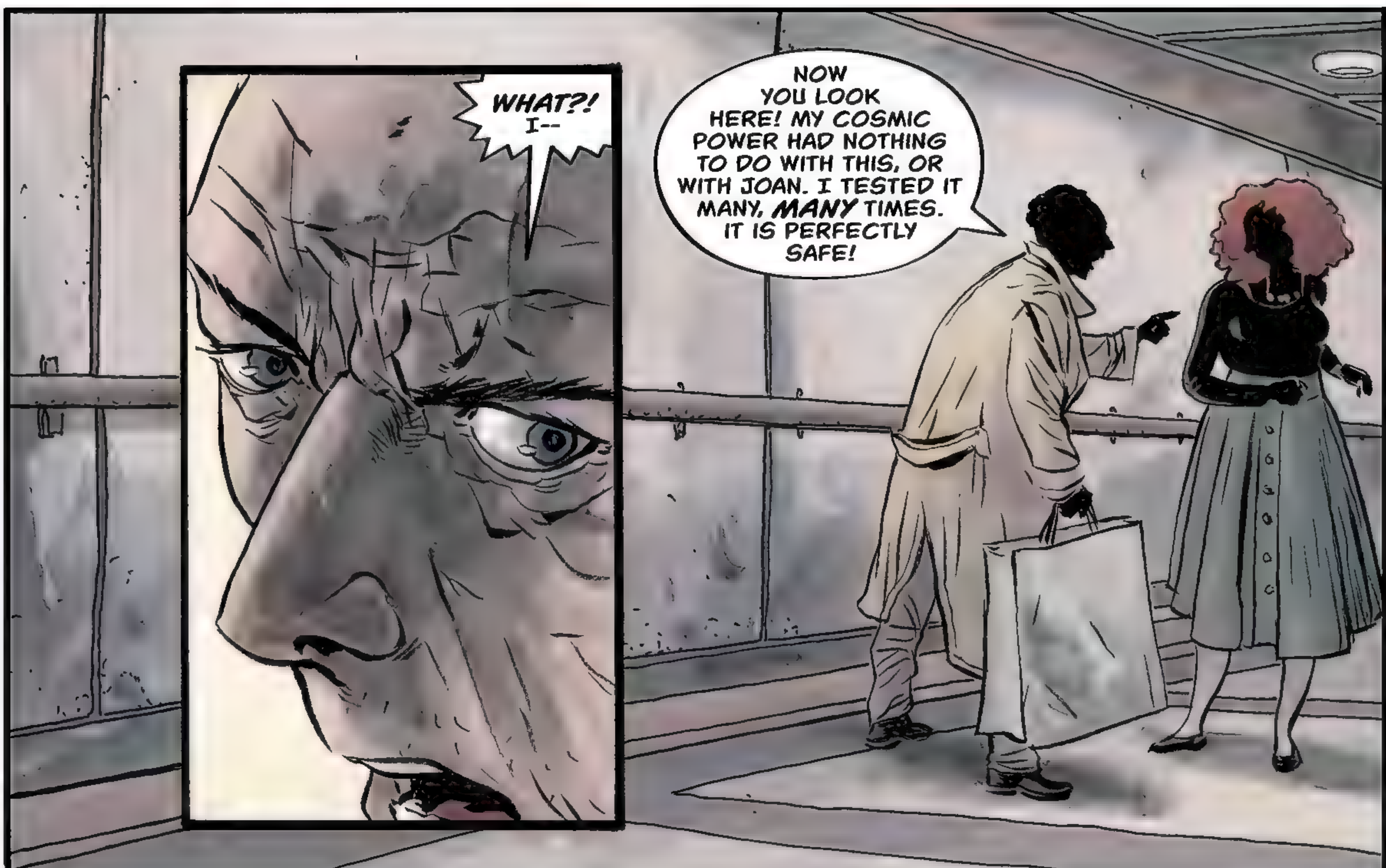
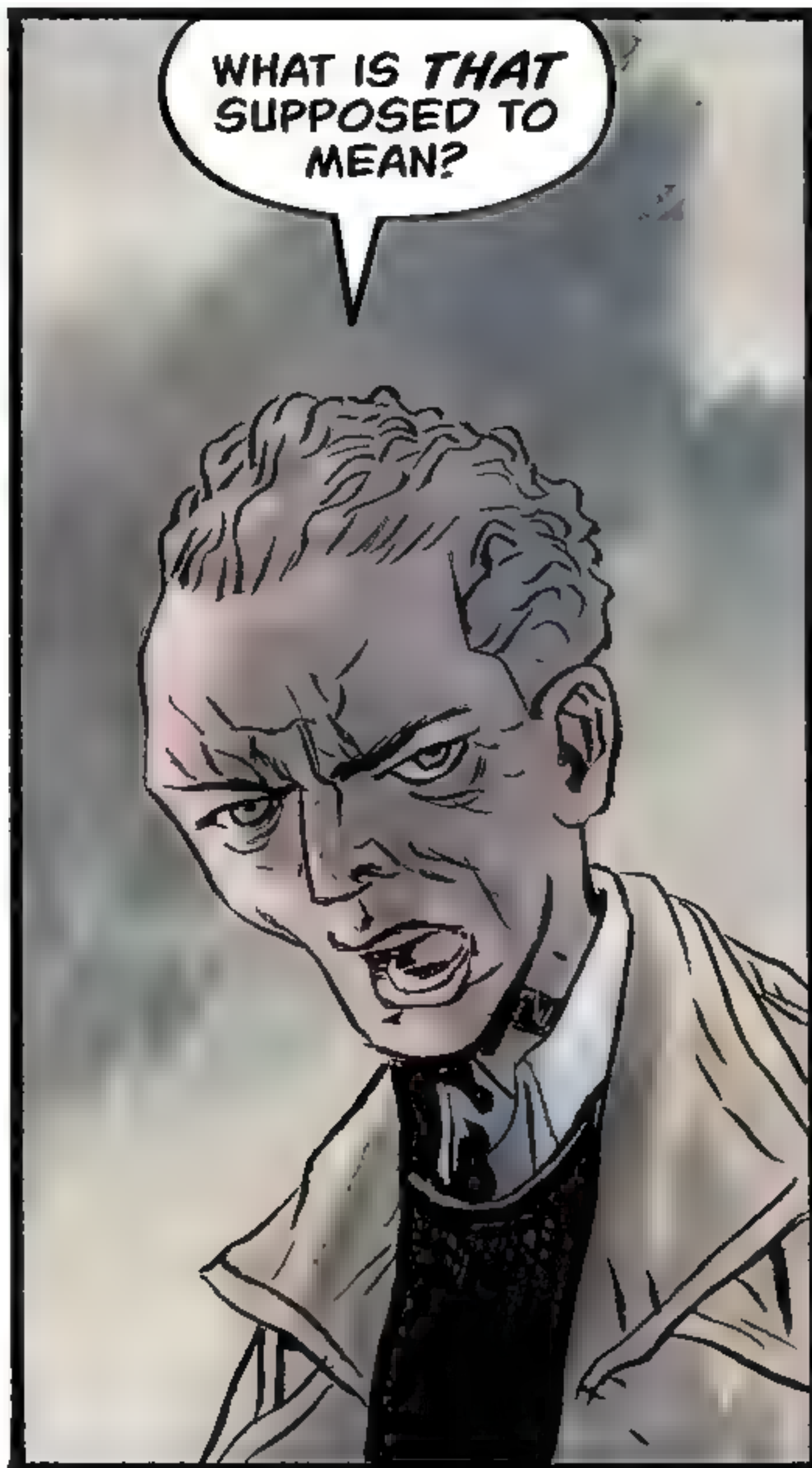
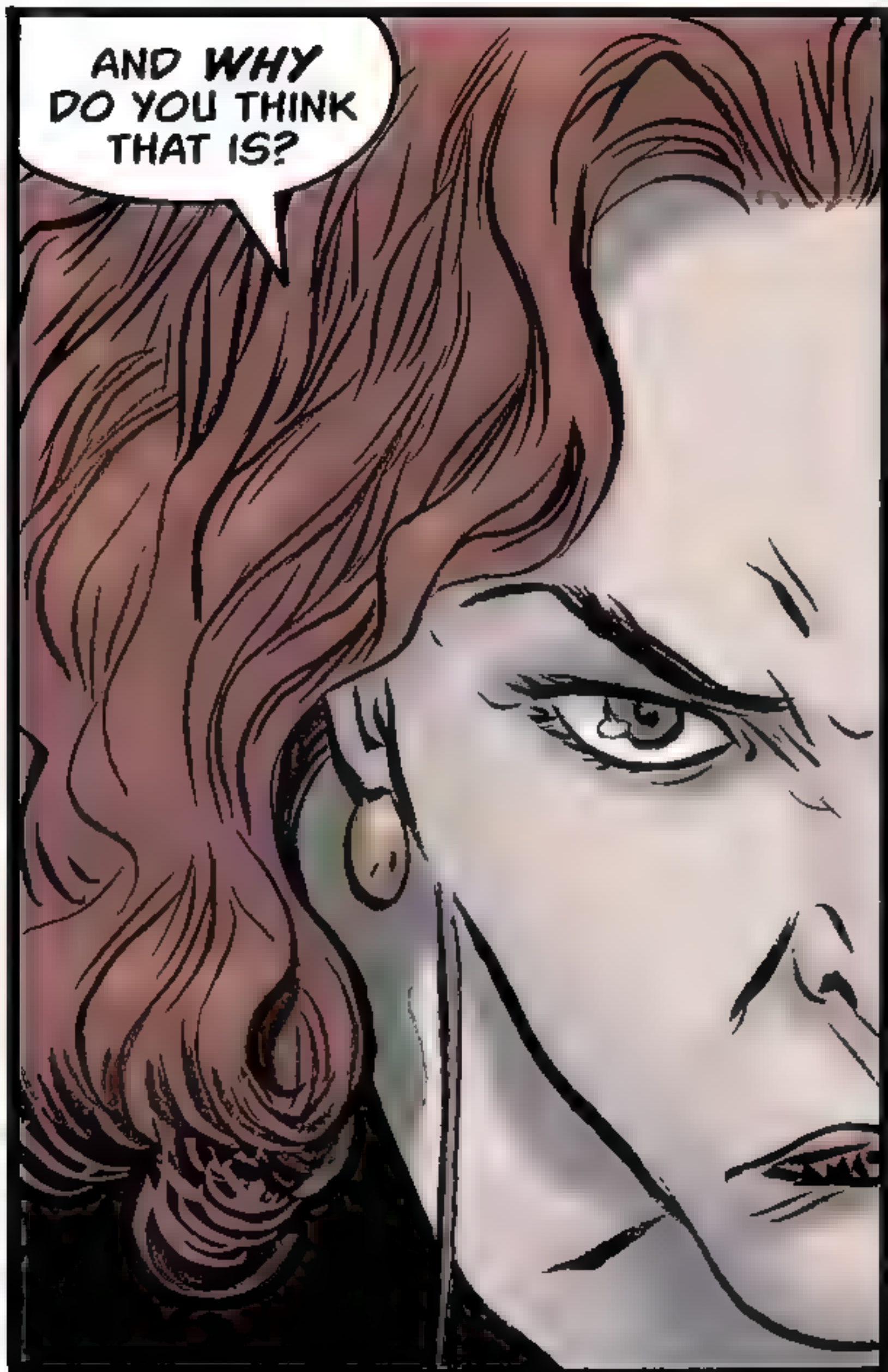
BUT NOTHING. YOU NEED TO LEAVE.

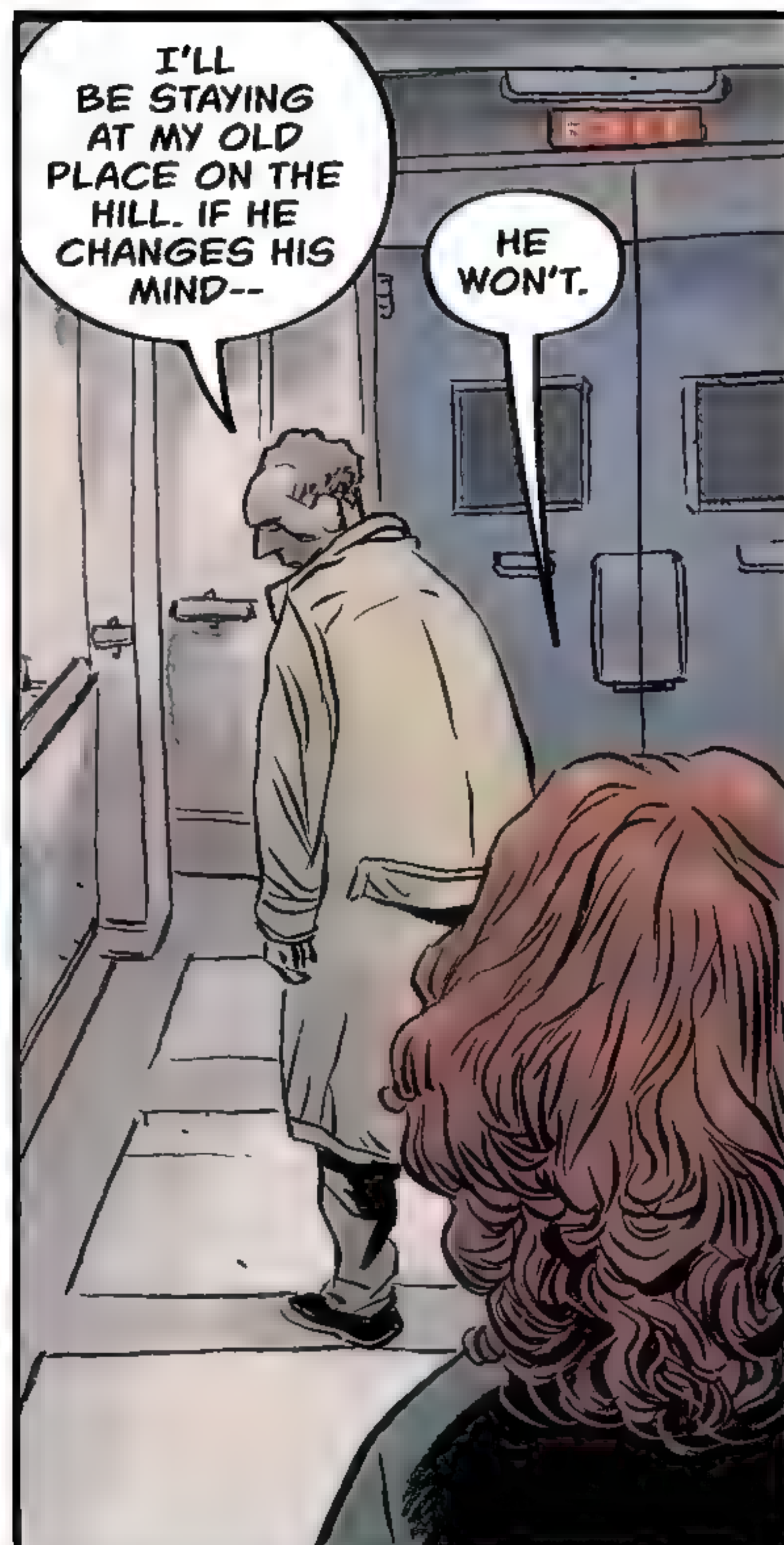
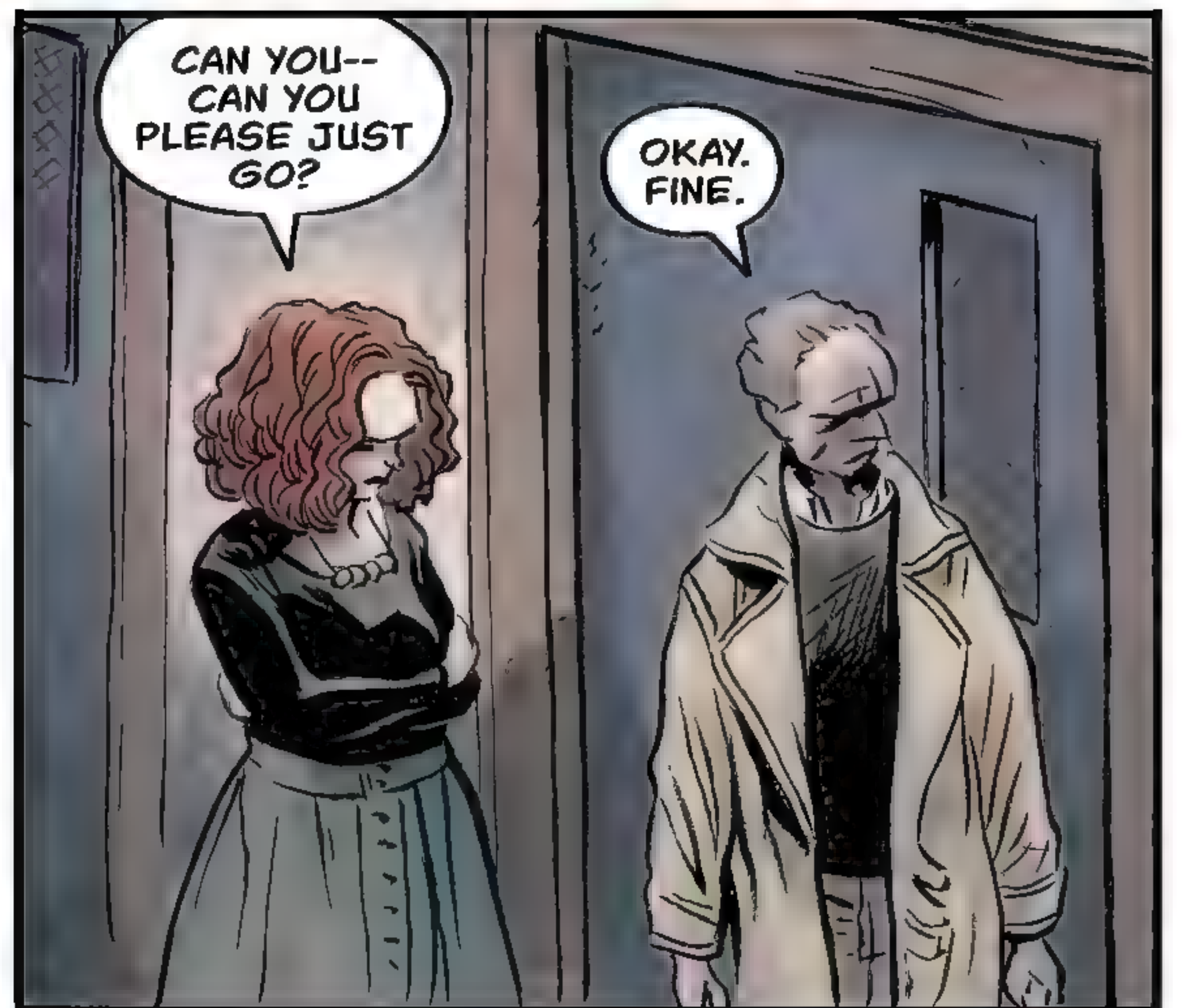
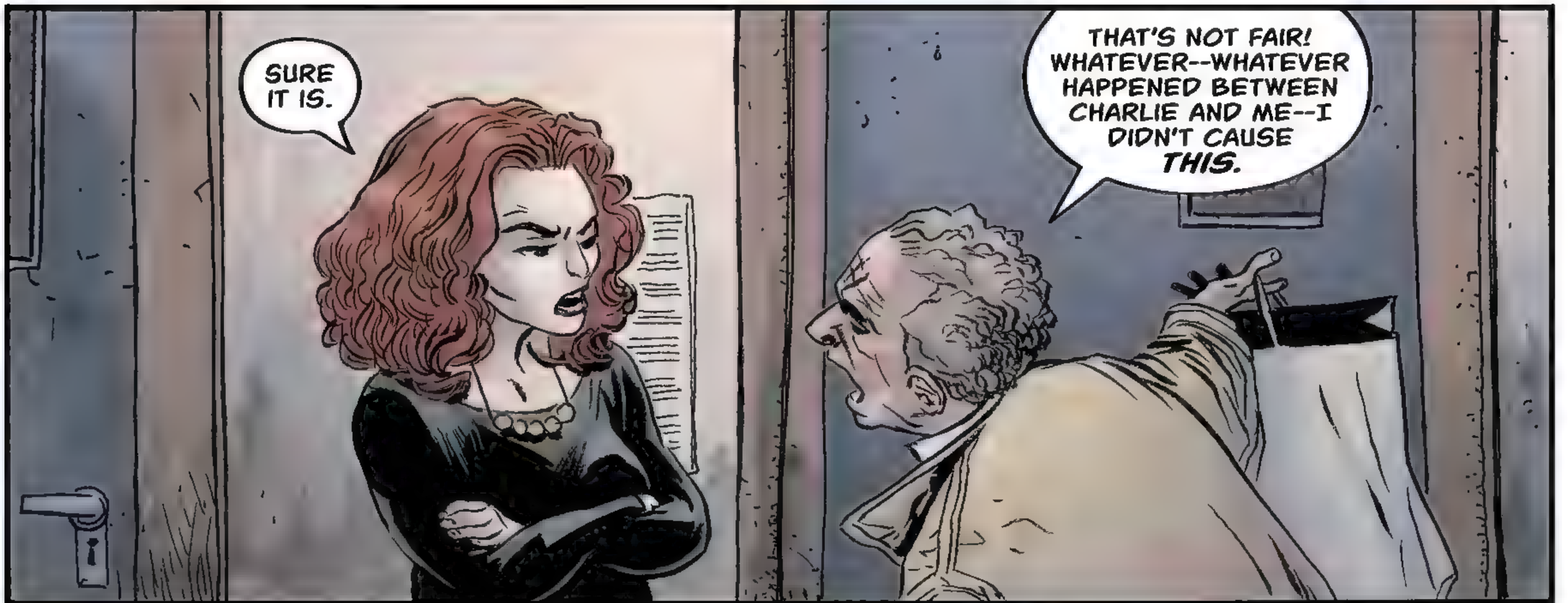


HE IS *MY SON*.



AND WE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT YOU ARE NOT A PART OF OUR FAMILY, MR. ROBINSON. YOU NEED TO RESPECT THAT.

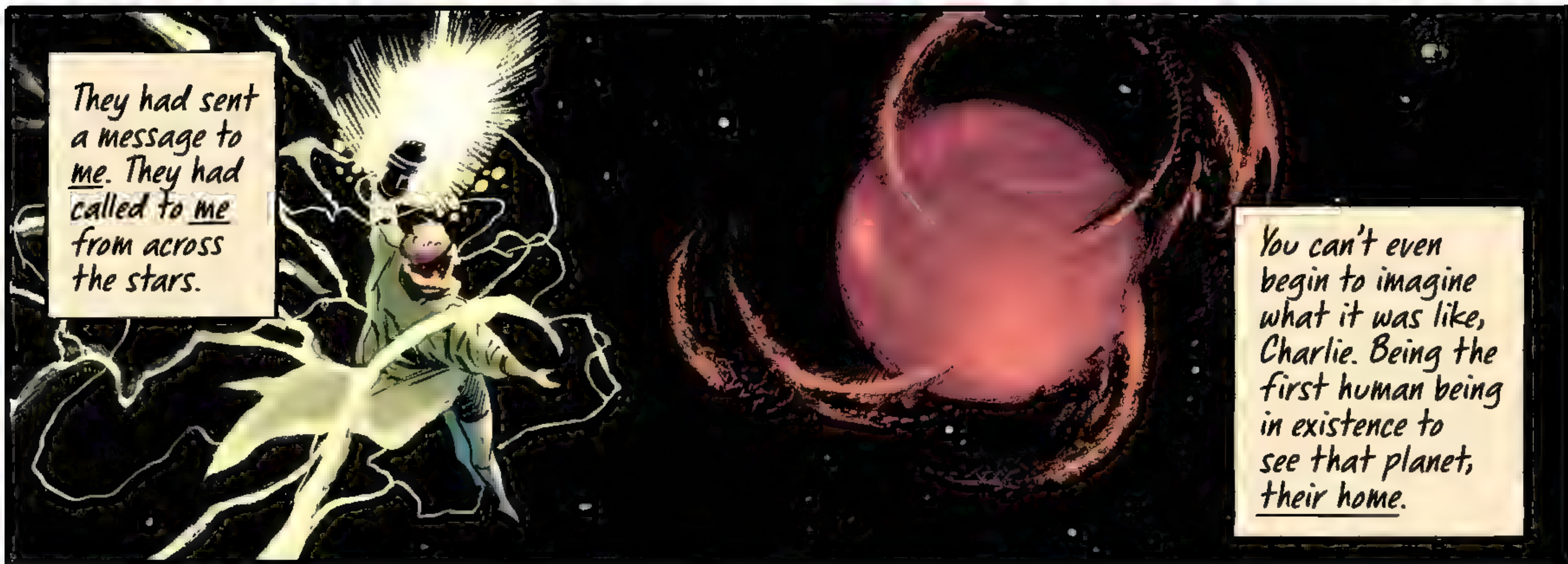






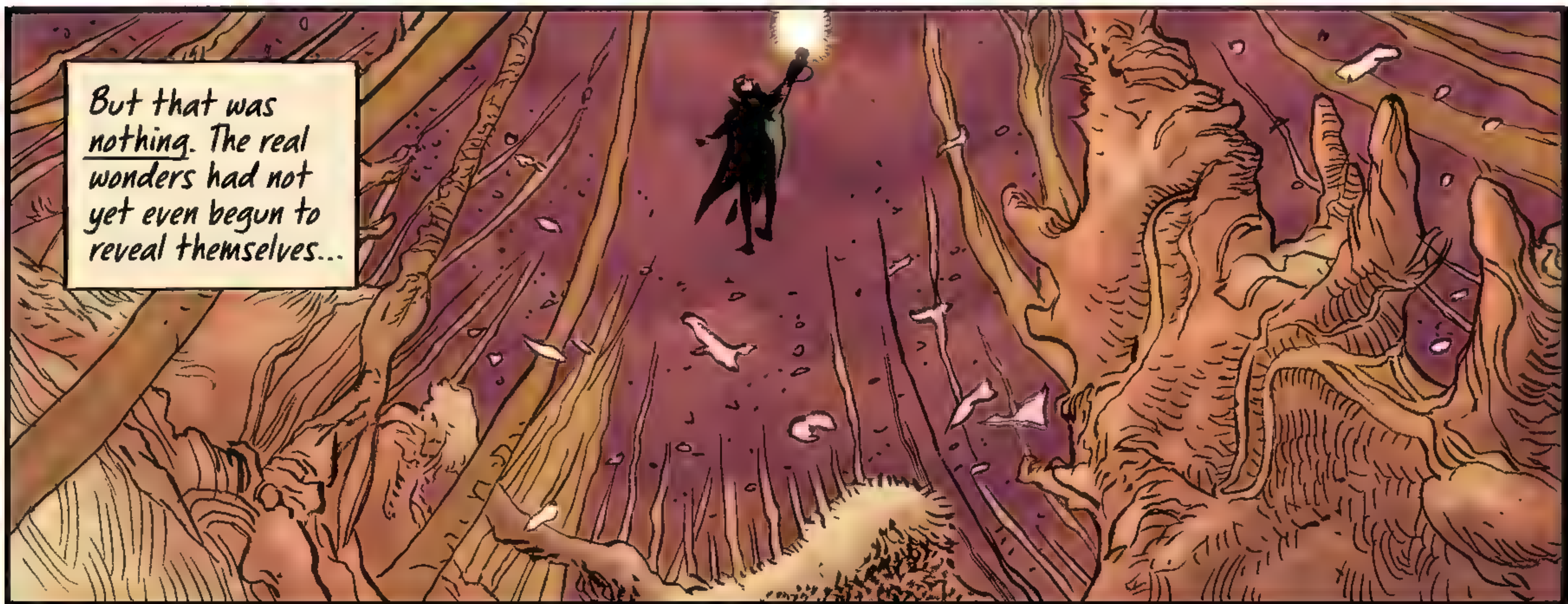
1951





They had sent a message to me. They had called to me from across the stars.

You can't even begin to imagine what it was like, Charlie. Being the first human being in existence to see that planet, their home.



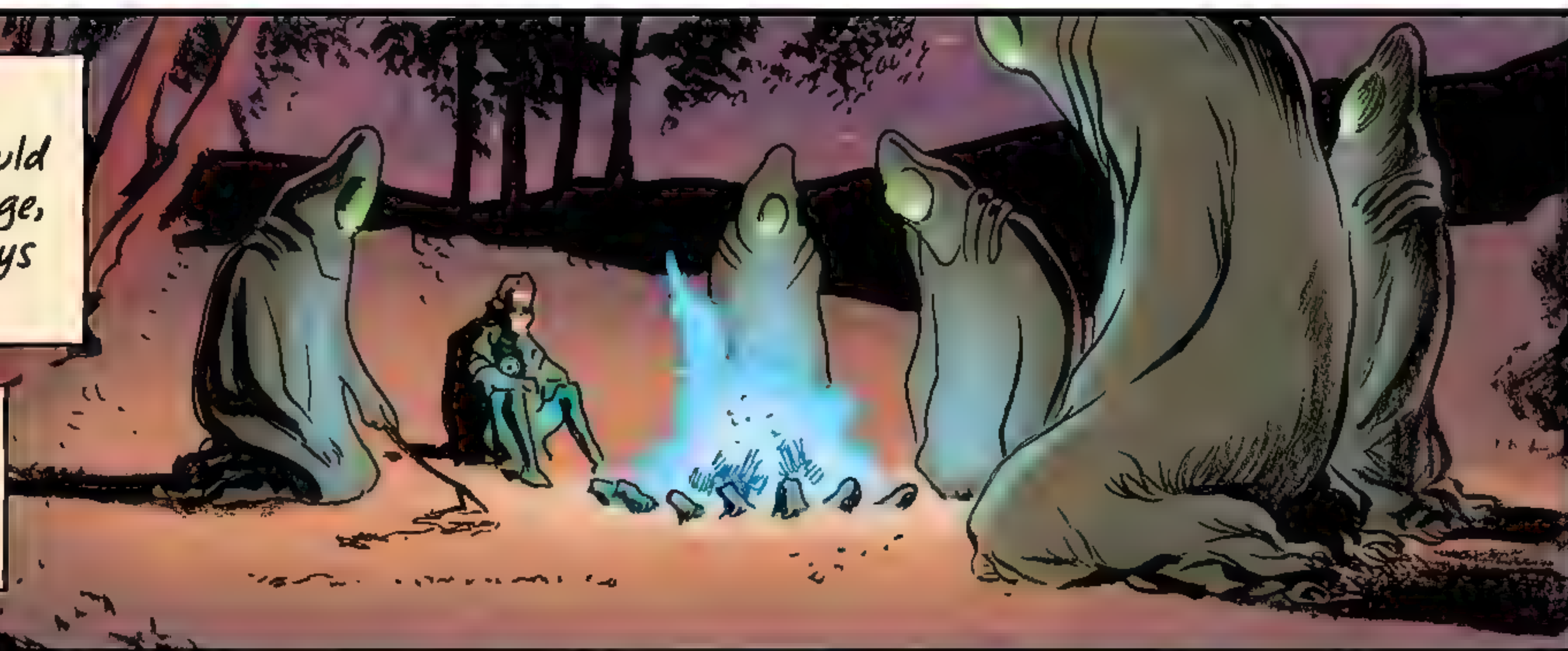
But that was nothing. The real wonders had not yet even begun to reveal themselves...



↓<∇ ∑∇!< √<∑<| √< ∑<∇∑< ∑<∇!<

Those early days were difficult. Of course I could not speak their language, but we found other ways to communicate.

Their culture, their way of life...they were incredible.



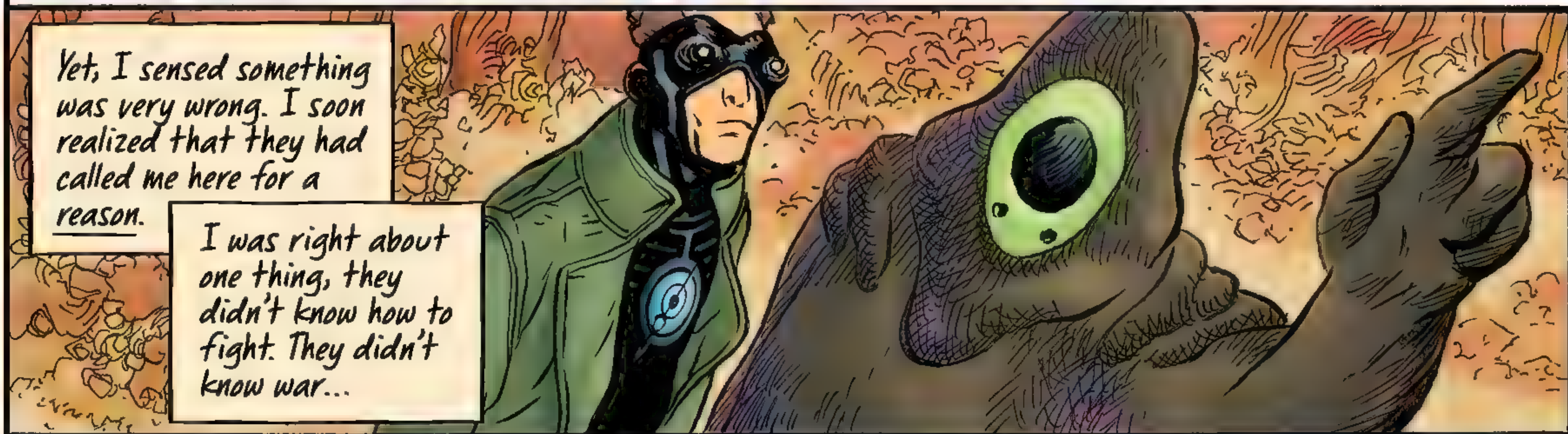
They were such a peaceful race. They did not know war. They knew only kindness.

They seemed to exist only to do good. They could even heal with touch.



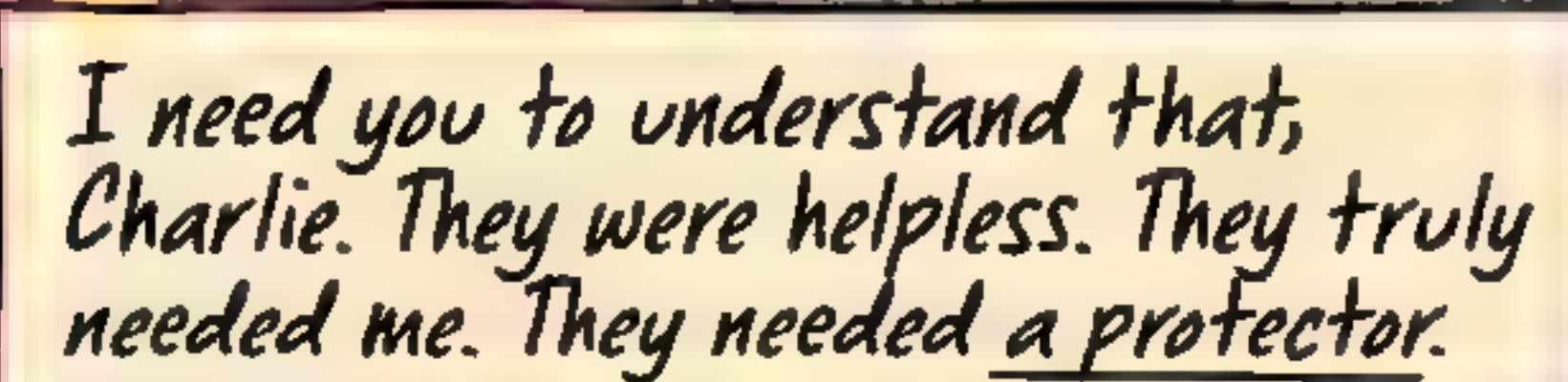
Yet, I sensed something was very wrong. I soon realized that they had called me here for a reason.

I was right about one thing, they didn't know how to fight. They didn't know war...

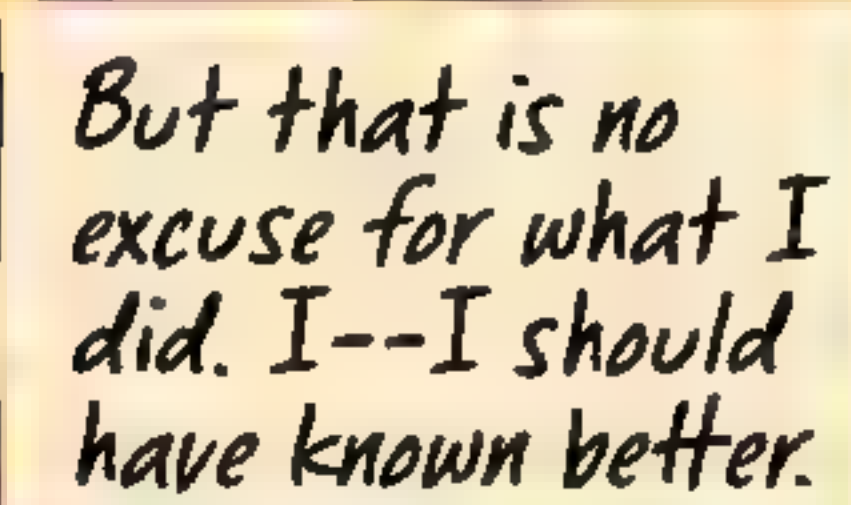


And that had made them the prey of others who did.

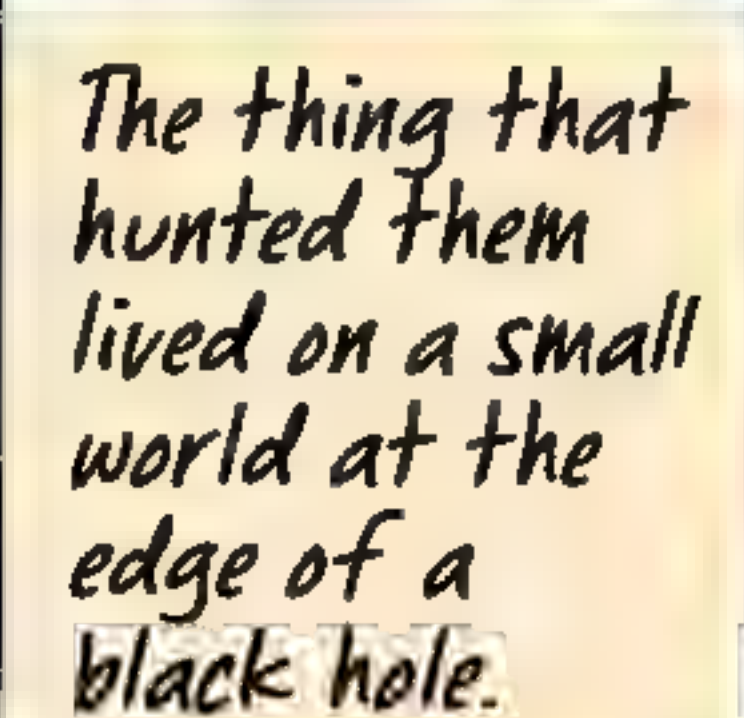




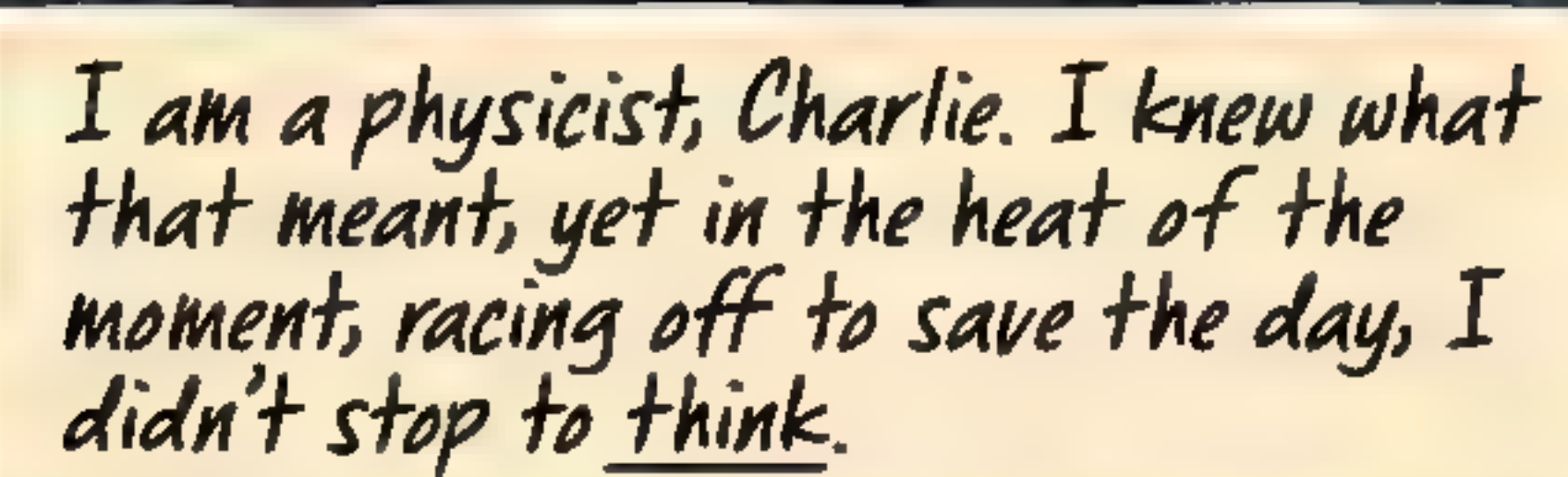
I need you to understand that, Charlie. They were helpless. They truly needed me. They needed a protector.



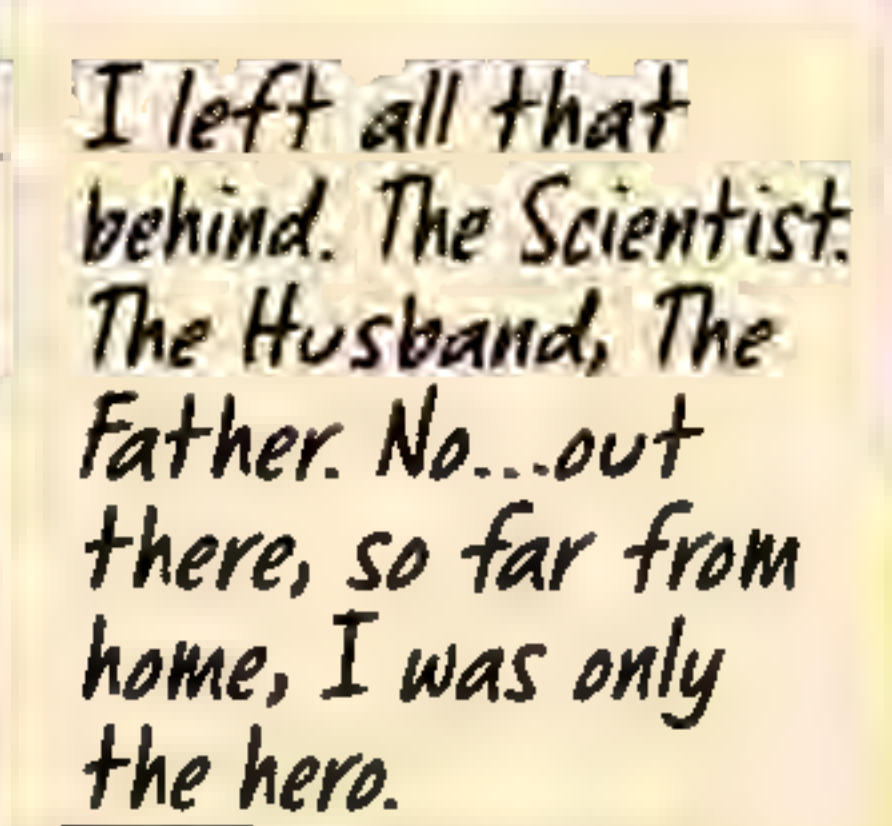
But that is no excuse for what I did. I--I should have known better.



The thing that hunted them lived on a small world at the edge of a black hole.



I am a physicist, Charlie. I knew what that meant, yet in the heat of the moment, racing off to save the day, I didn't stop to think.

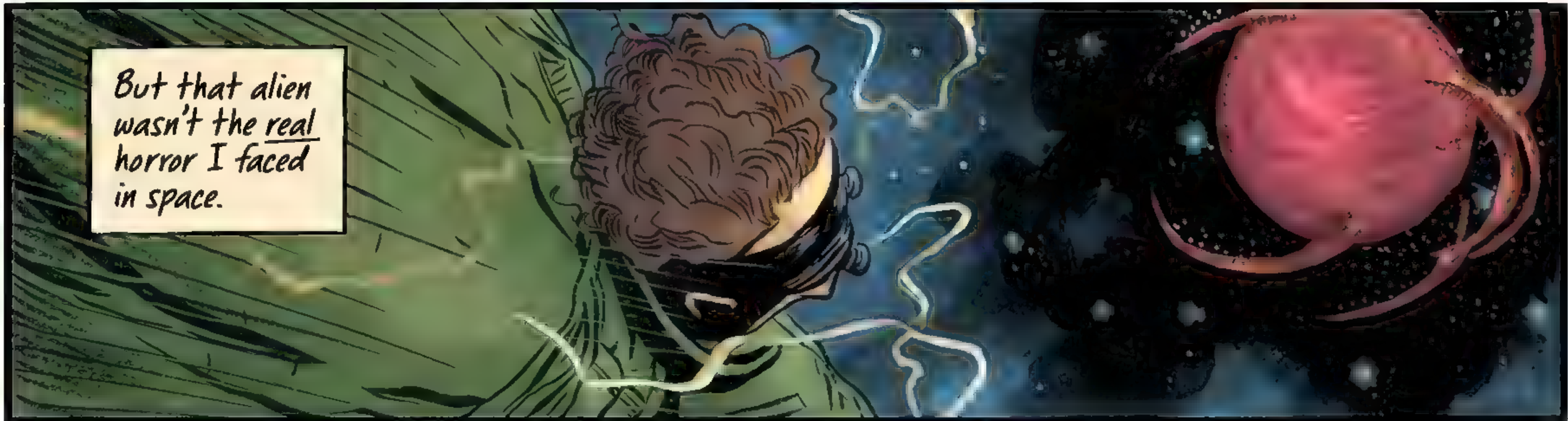


I left all that behind. The Scientist. The Husband, The Father. No...out there, so far from home, I was only the hero.



The great Doctor Andromeda... Intergalactic Dragon Slayer.

But that alien wasn't the real horror I faced in space.



The real horror greeted me when I returned, triumphant.



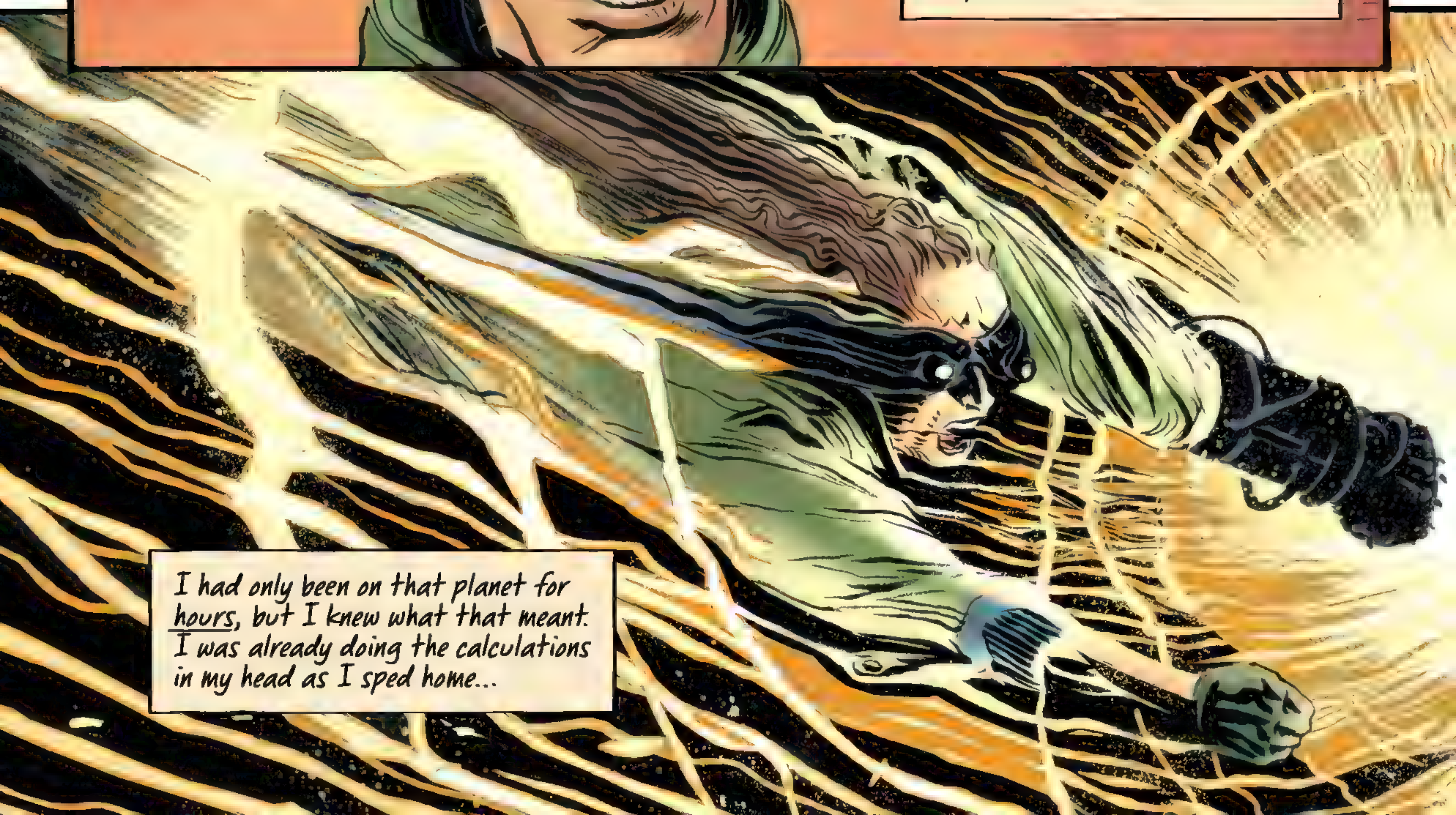
The aliens I had gotten to know were different. They were noticeably older.

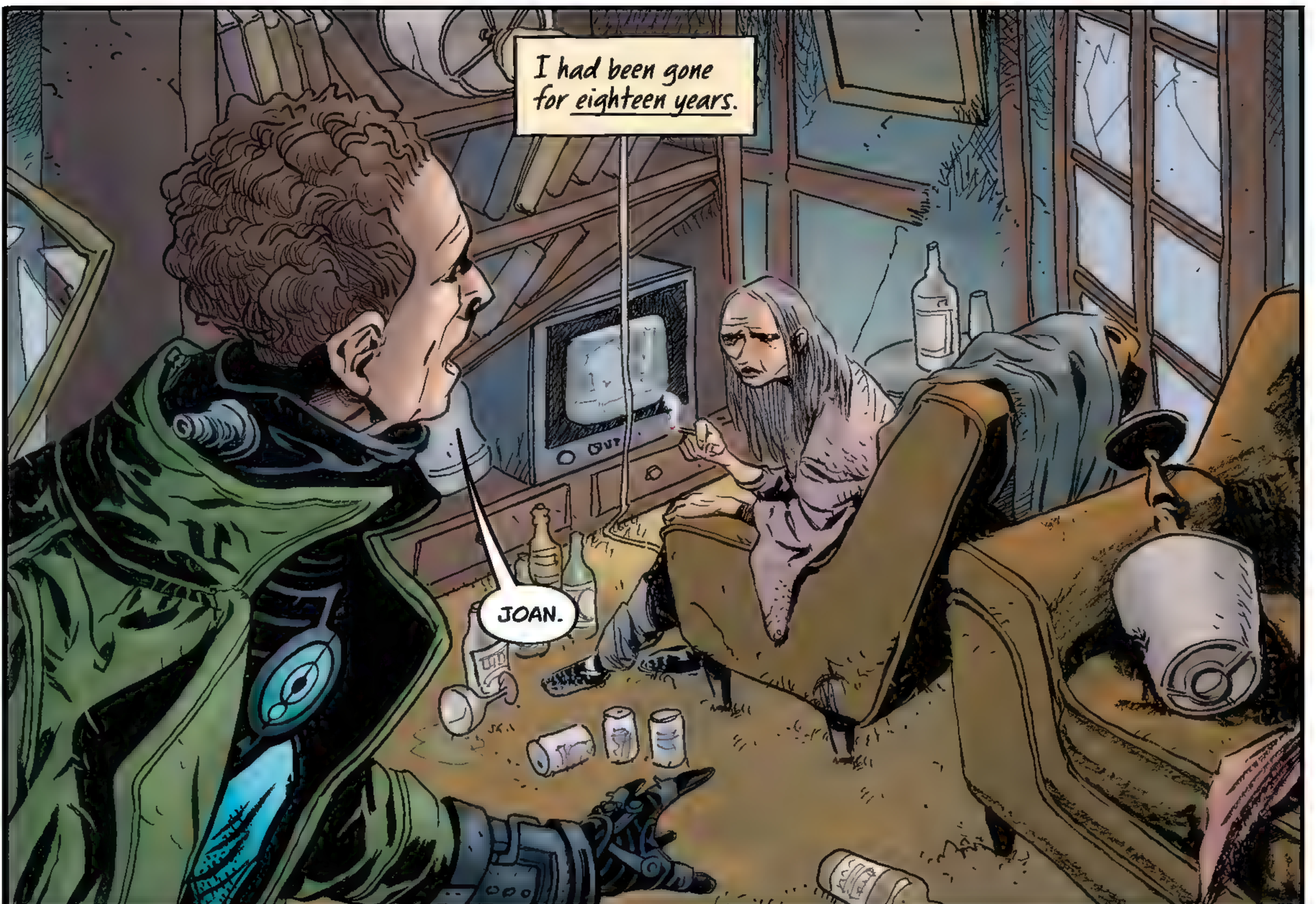
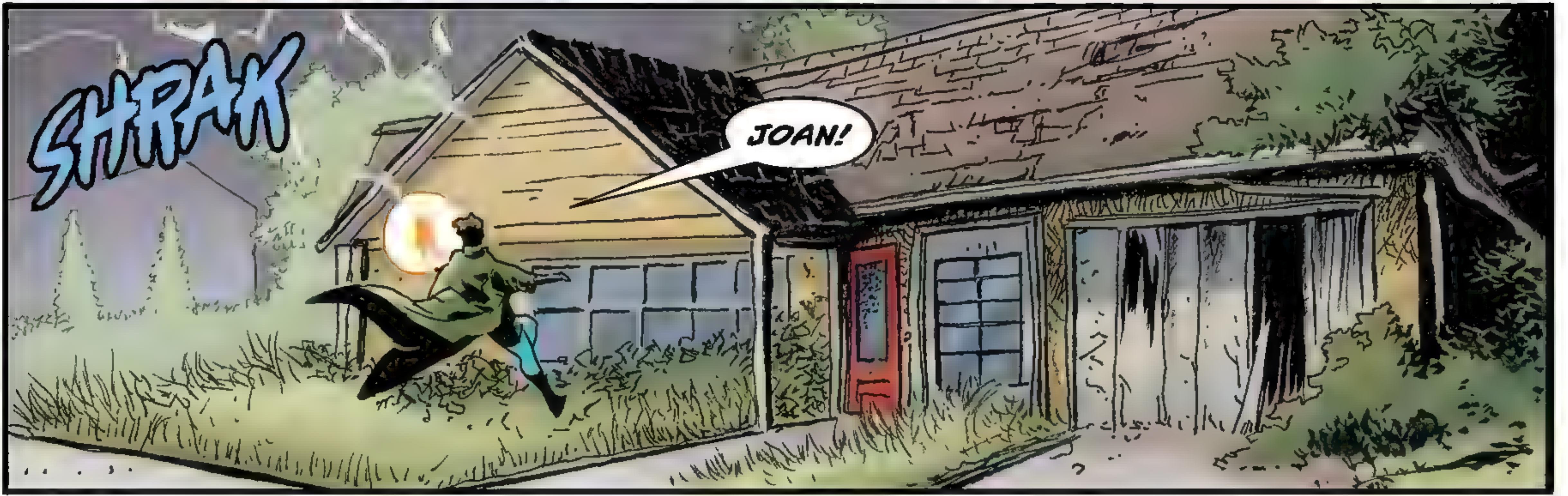
That's when it hit me. The home of the dragon, it was so close to the black hole.



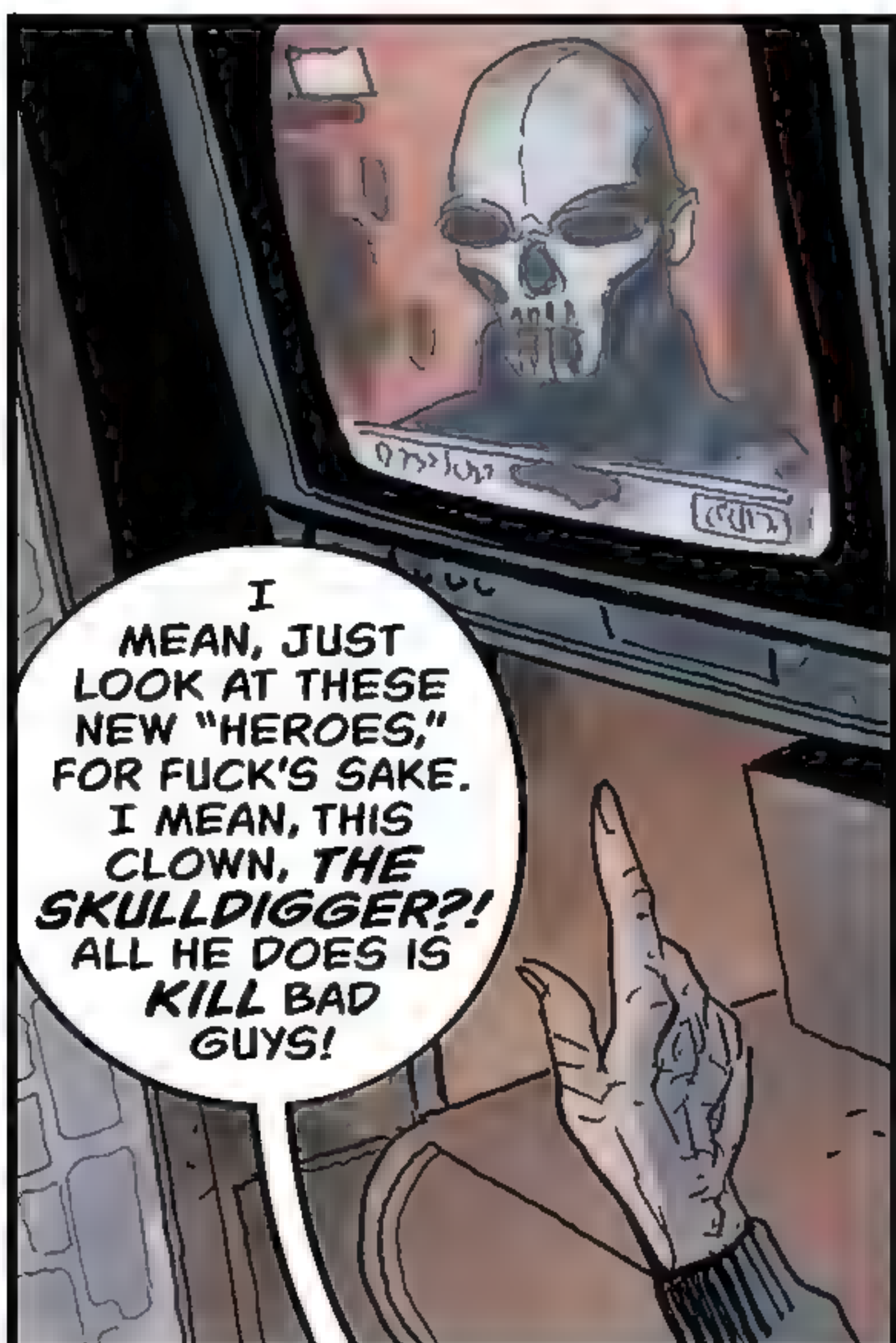
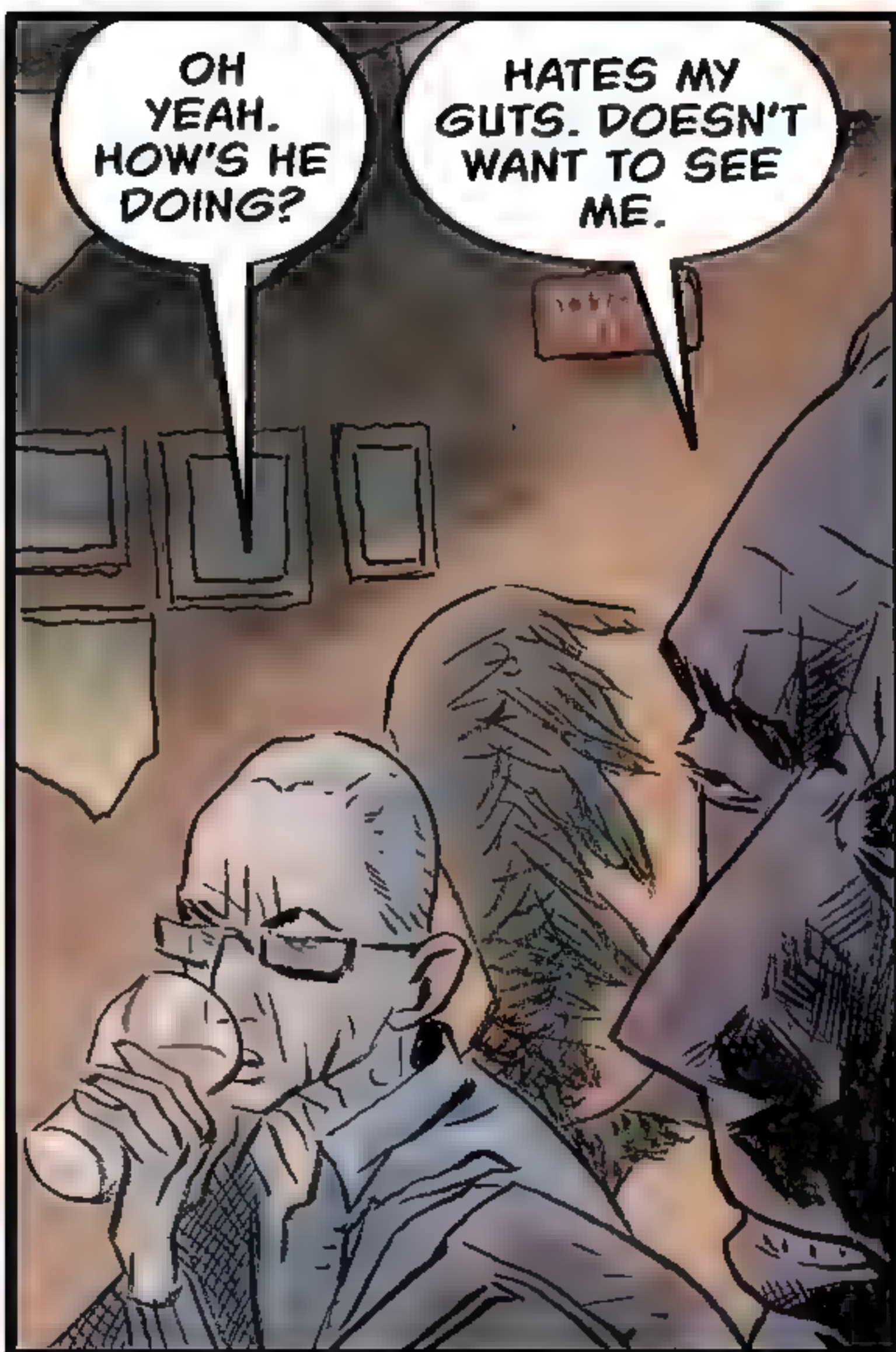
Doctor Andromeda the hero had saved the day. But Doctor Robinson the physicist had failed to use his brain. The gravity that close to the black hole slowed time dramatically compared to here... compared to Earth.

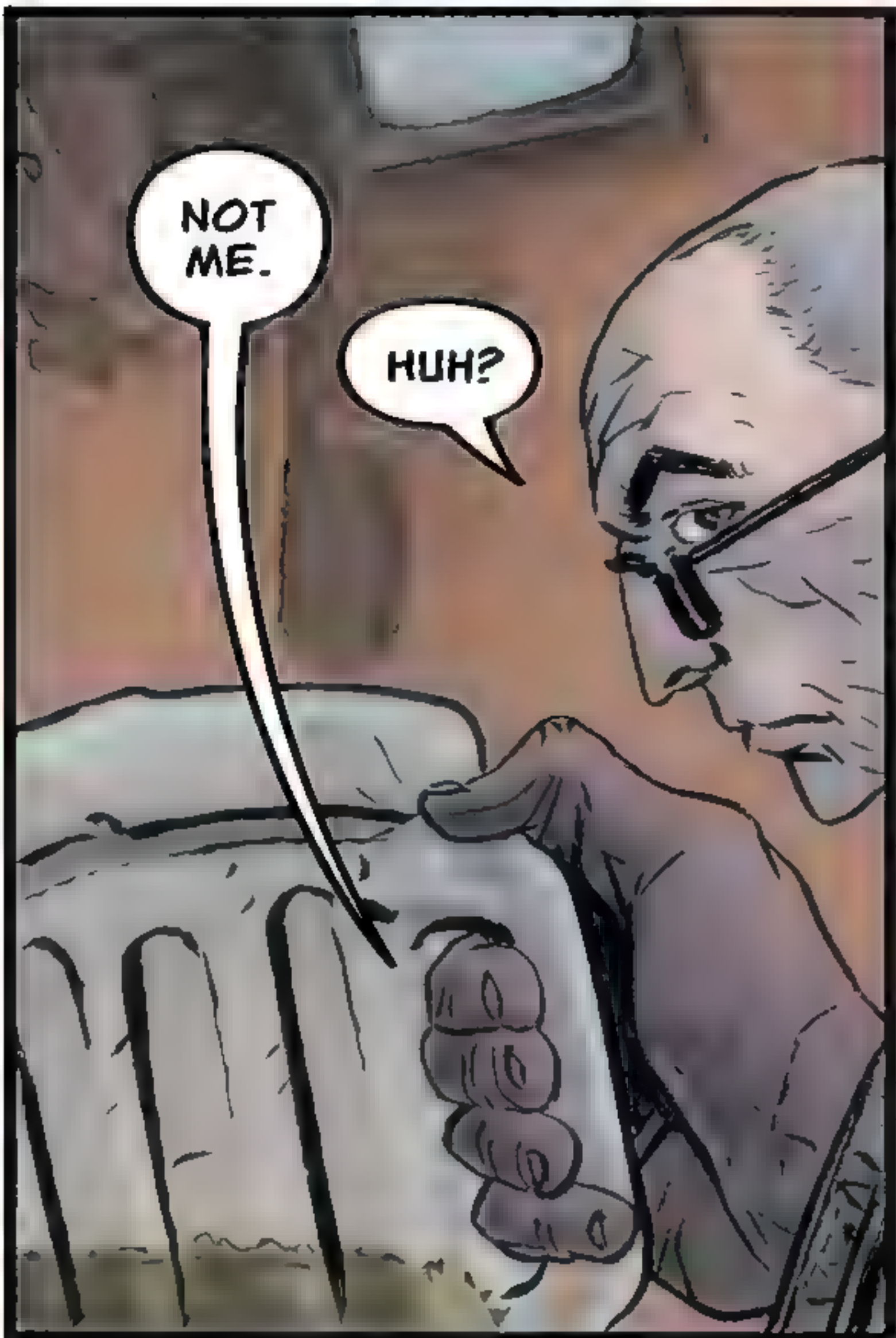
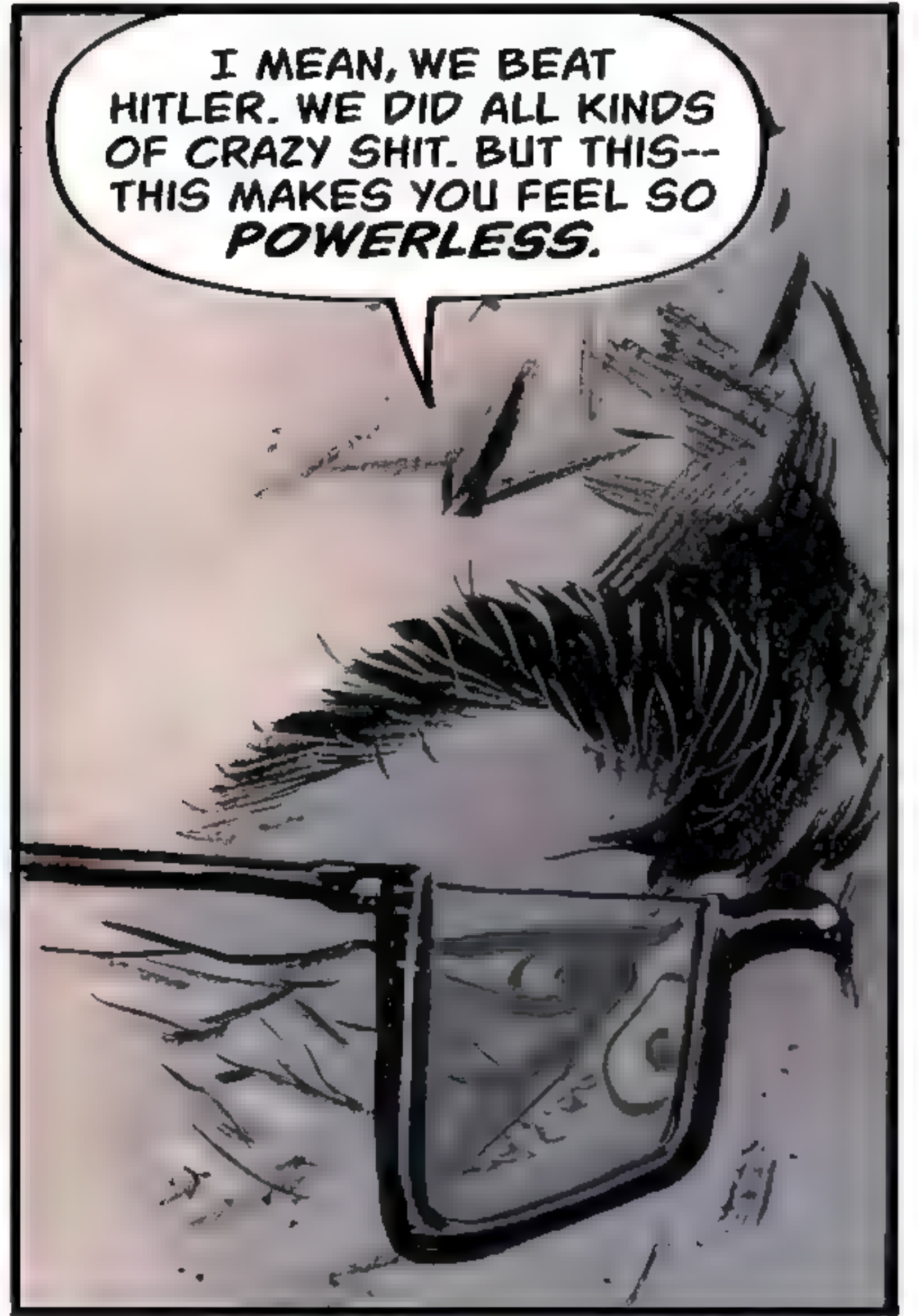
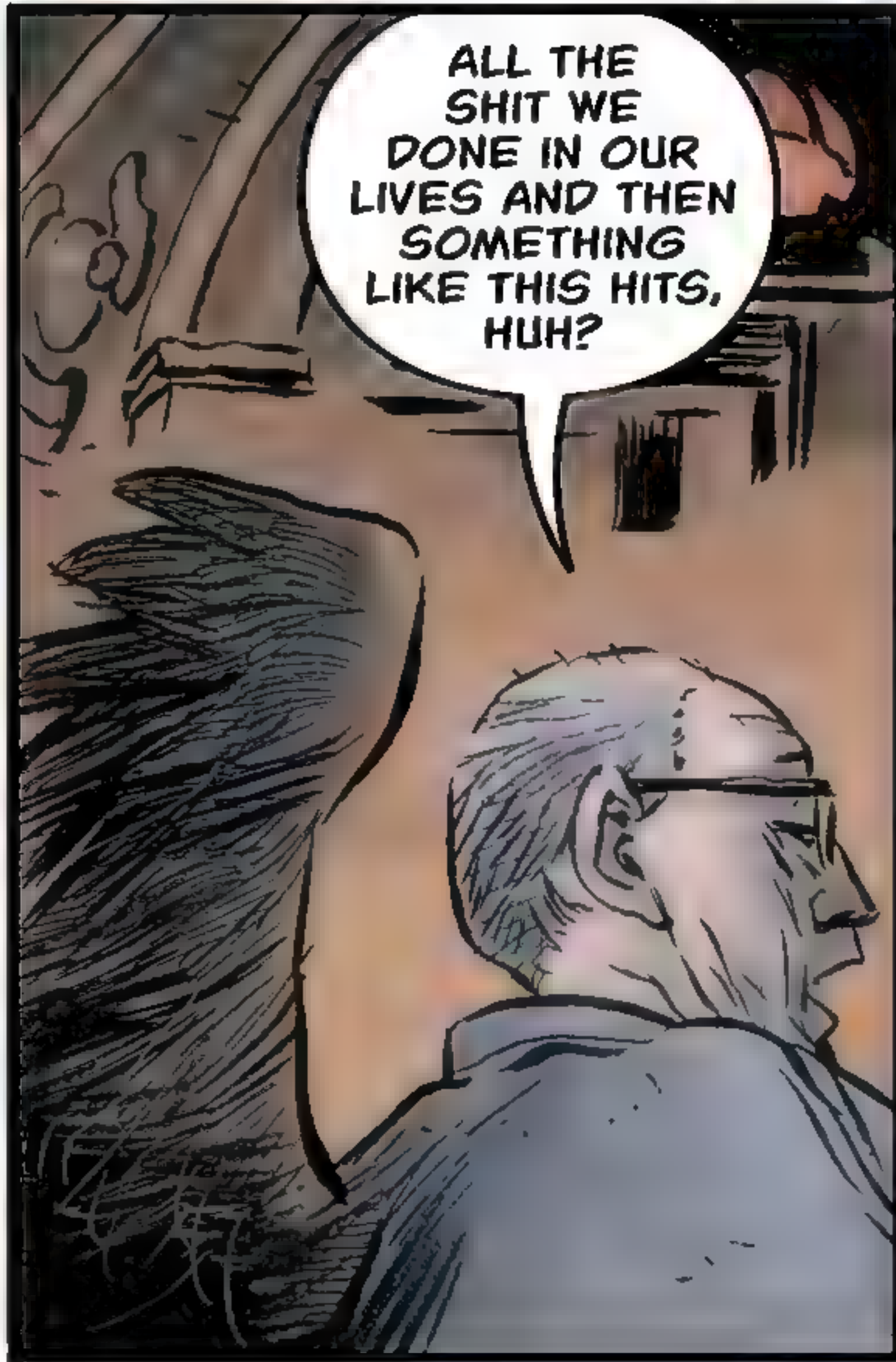
I had only been on that planet for hours, but I knew what that meant. I was already doing the calculations in my head as I sped home...













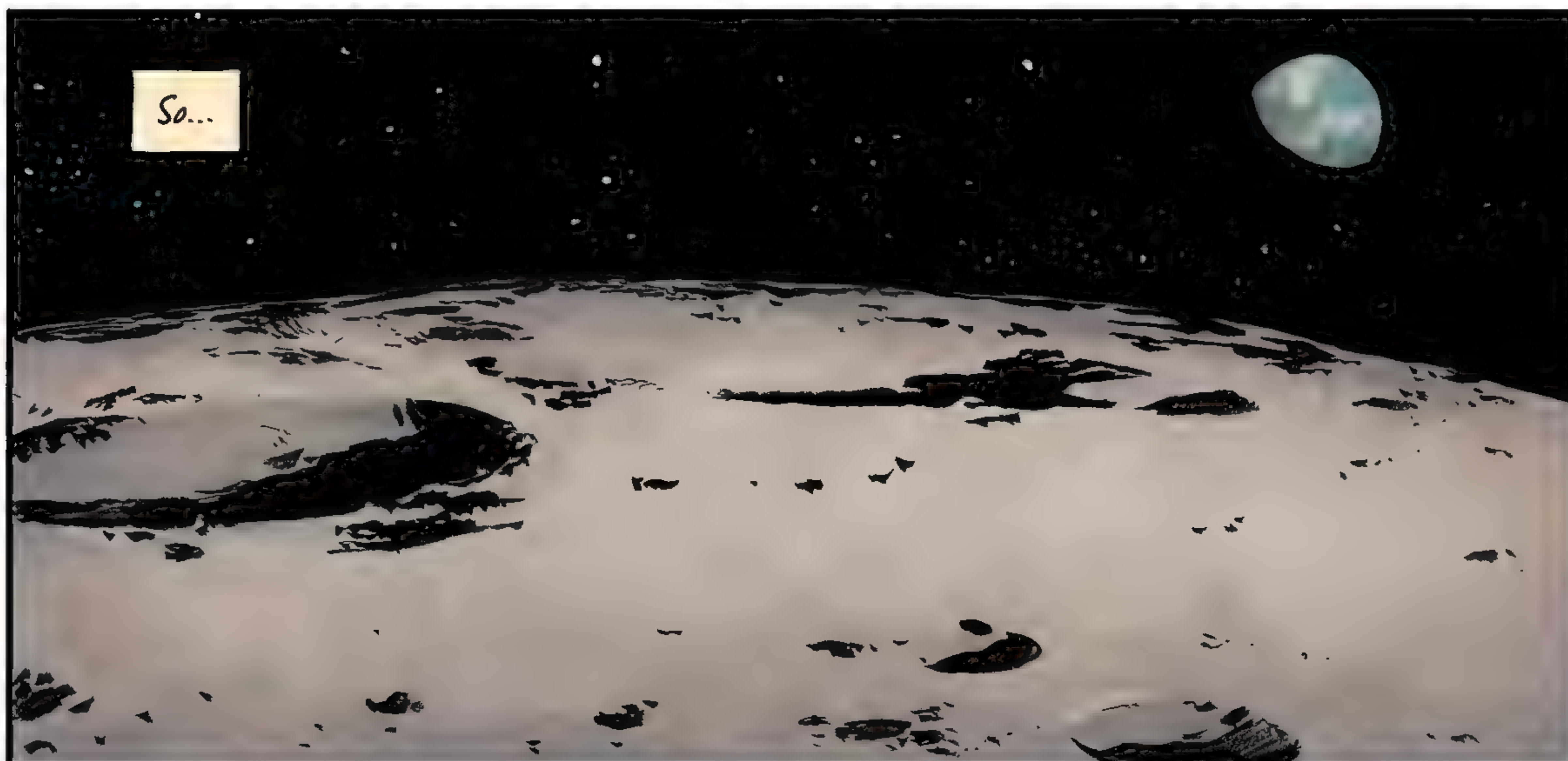
I'M
GOING TO
FIND A CURE
FOR HIM. NO
MATTER
WHAT.

SHOCK



CHAPTER THREE

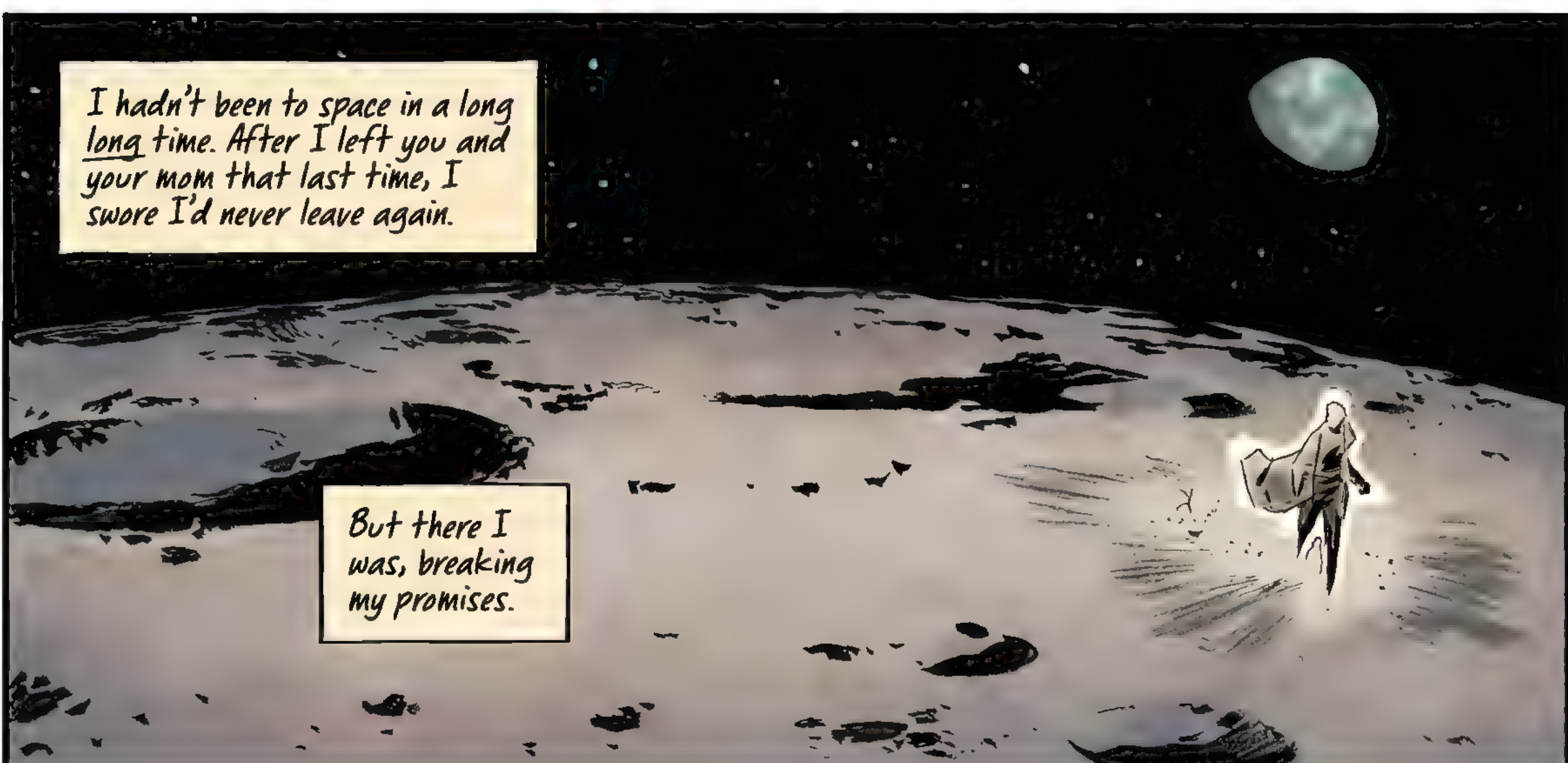




So...

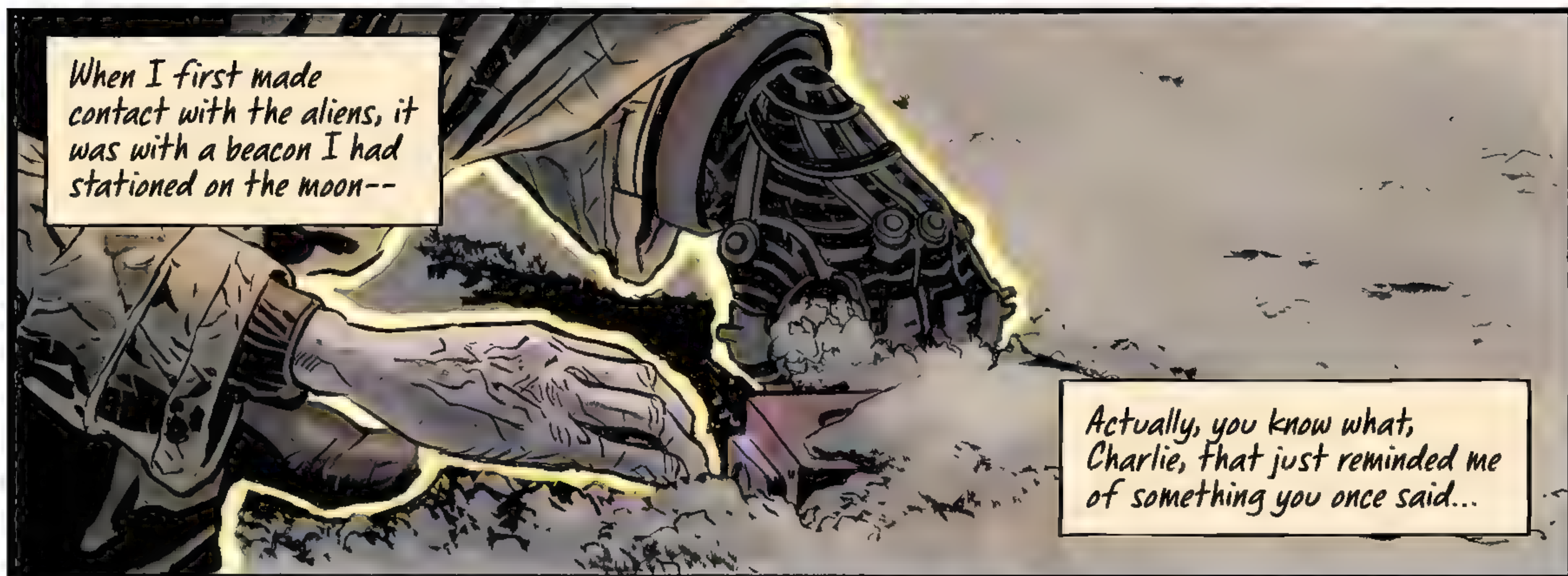


...I went to the moon.



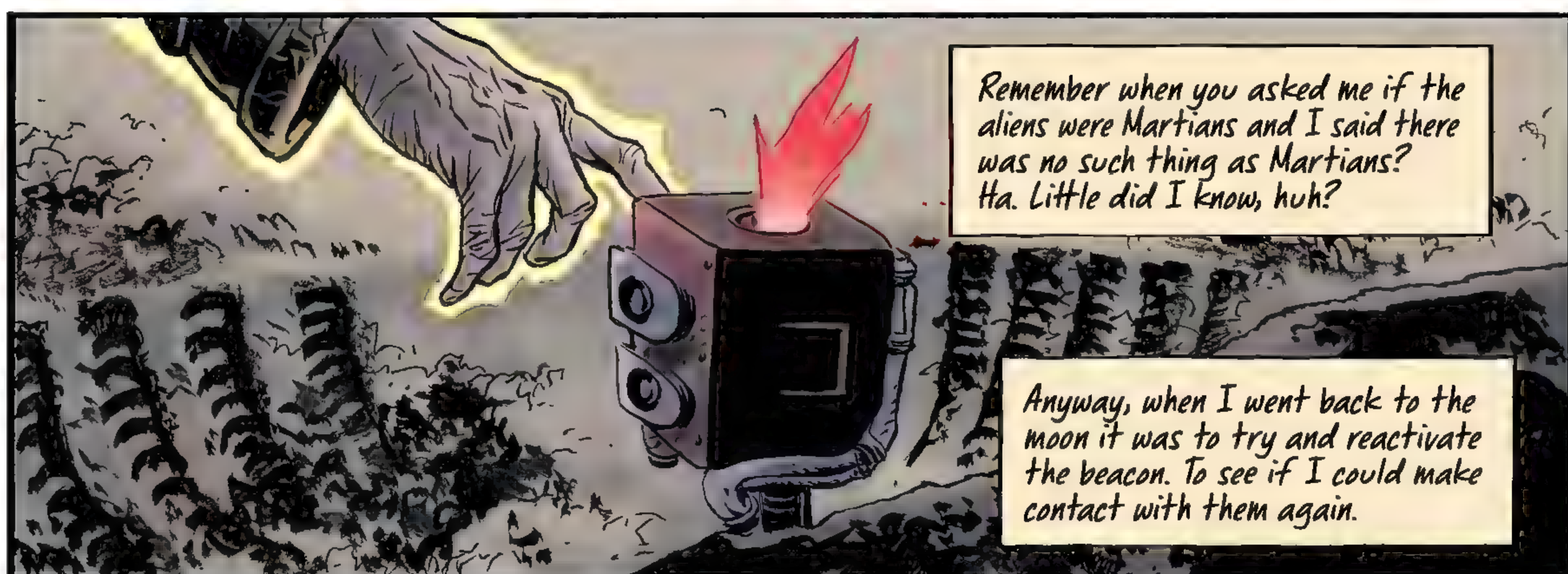
I hadn't been to space in a long long time. After I left you and your mom that last time, I swore I'd never leave again.

But there I was, breaking my promises.



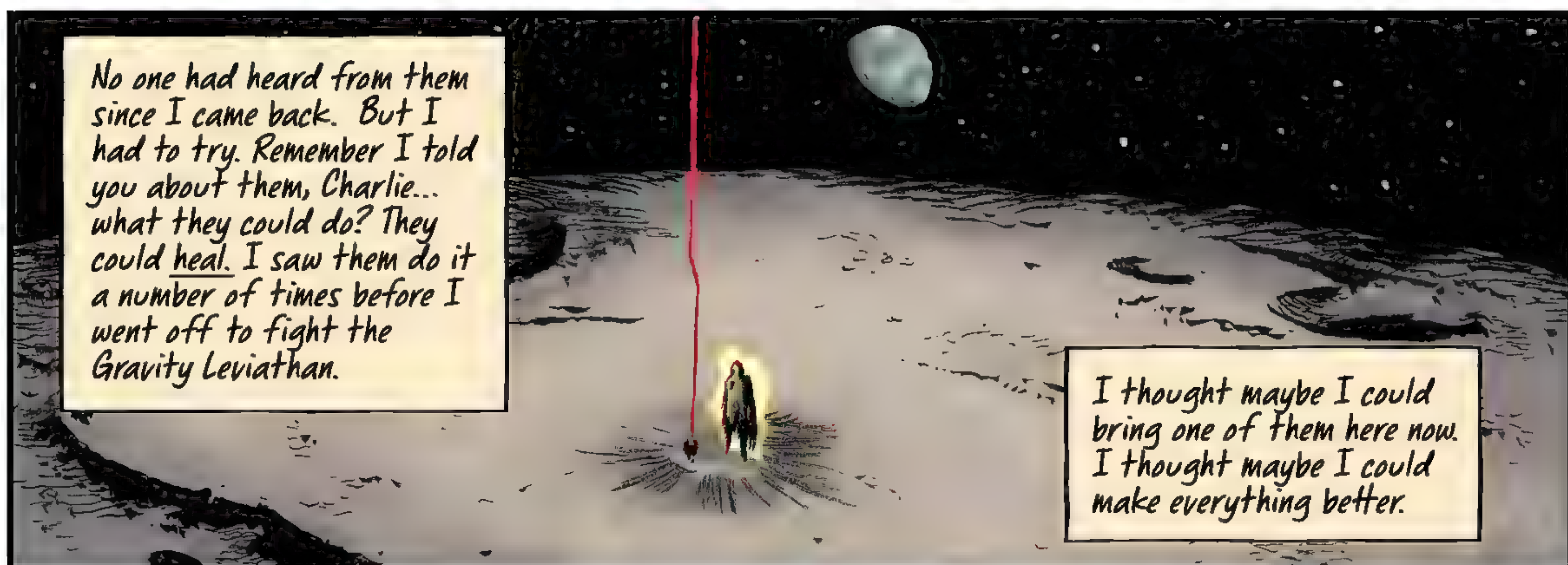
When I first made contact with the aliens, it was with a beacon I had stationed on the moon--

Actually, you know what, Charlie, that just reminded me of something you once said...



Remember when you asked me if the aliens were Martians and I said there was no such thing as Martians? Ha. Little did I know, huh?

Anyway, when I went back to the moon it was to try and reactivate the beacon. To see if I could make contact with them again.



No one had heard from them since I came back. But I had to try. Remember I told you about them, Charlie... what they could do? They could heal. I saw them do it a number of times before I went off to fight the Gravity Leviathan.

I thought maybe I could bring one of them here now. I thought maybe I could make everything better.



KZZT

SHRRRAK

FATHER.
YOU HAVE
CALLED AT
LAST!



WHA--
WHO ARE
YOU?!



IN
YOUR LANGUAGE
MY TITLE WOULD
ROUGHLY TRANSLATE TO
"THE ANDROMEDEER." I AM
YOUR PROGENY, FATHER.
ONE OF *YOUR*
CHILDREN.





LOOK, I CAME TO SEE YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE, BUT I DO NOT WANT TO GO ANYWHERE NEAR THAT BLACK HOLE AGAIN! LAST TIME I--

YOU LOST MUCH TIME. YES. WE KNOW. DO NOT WORRY. THE *GRAVITY LEVIATHAN* REMAINS VERY MUCH DEAD. THERE WILL BE NO NEED TO GO BACK THERE.



HOLD ON! HOW ARE WE TALKING?! LAST TIME I WAS HERE YOU DIDN'T KNOW MY LANGUAGE.

WE HAVE BEEN OBSERVING YOUR PLANET. OBSERVING *YOU*. WE HAVE LEARNED MANY THINGS. AND WE HAVE BEEN PREPARING.



PREPARING? PREPARING FOR WHAT?

FOR THE DAY YOU WOULD SEE FIT TO COME BACK TO US. TO LEAD US. AND IT IS NOT JUST *THIS WORLD* WHO HAVE LEARNED FROM YOUR EXAMPLE, FATHER. WE HAVE RECRUITS FROM ACROSS THE UNIVERSE.



I tell you, Charlie. I've seen some things in my day. But what I saw there--well, nothing could have prepared me for that.

RECRUITS? I DON'T--

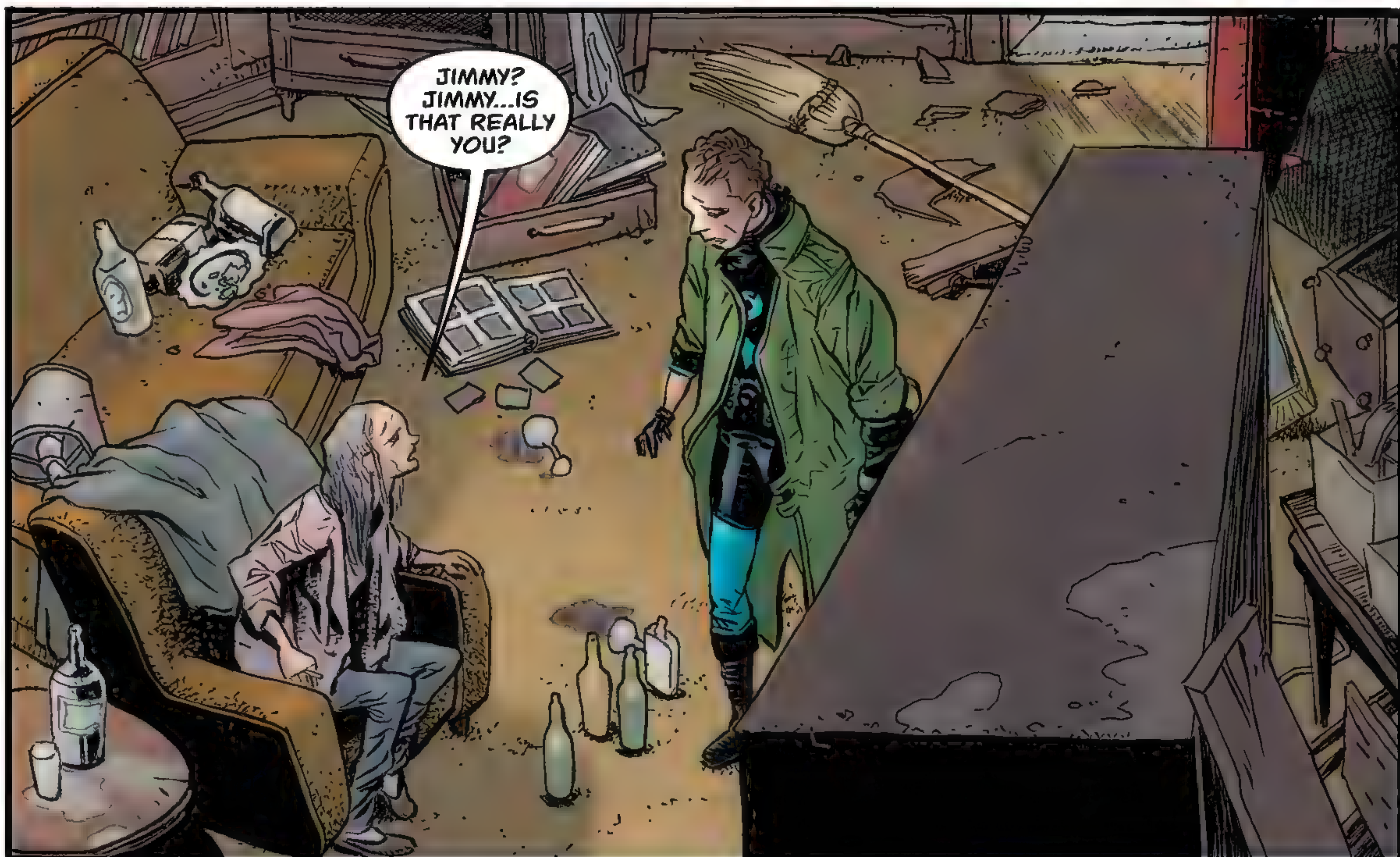
ALL HAIL
THE FATHER!

MAY YOUR
LIGHT SHINE
BRIGHT
FOR INFINITY!

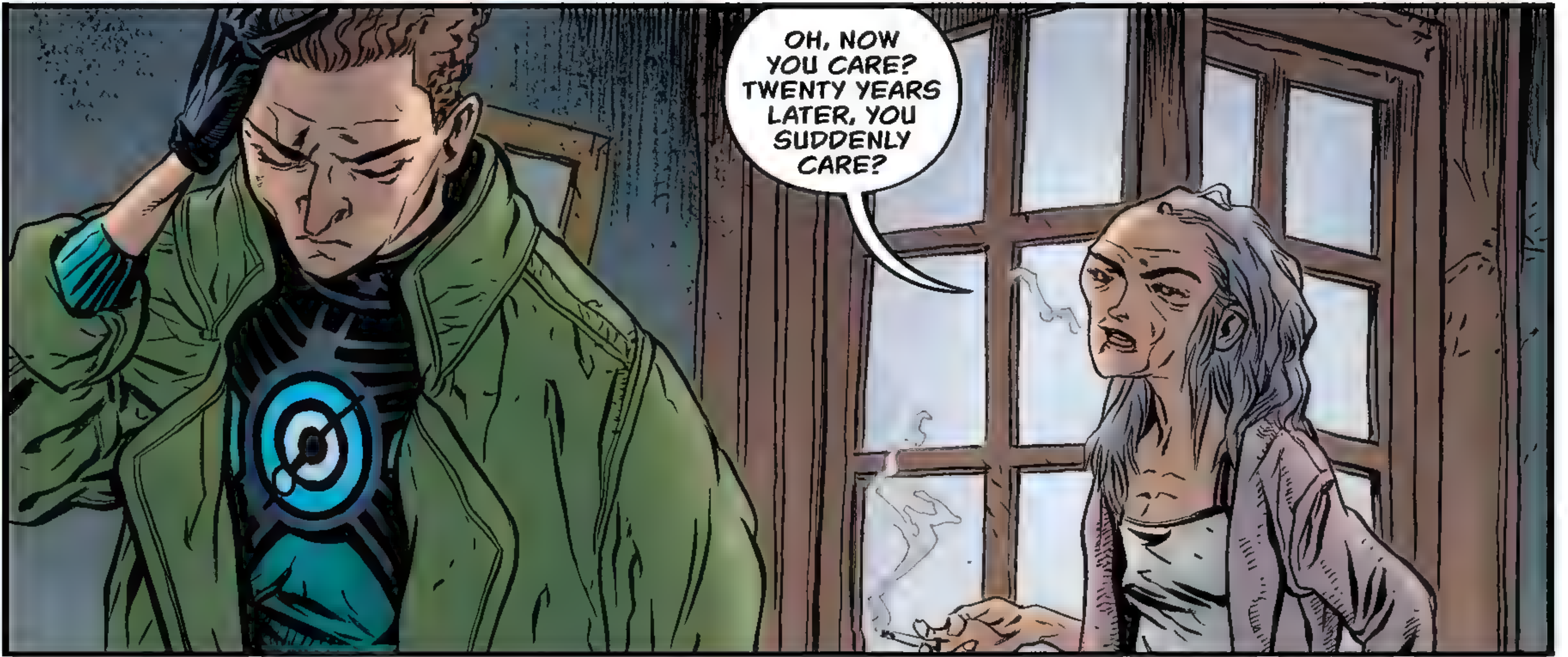
THESE ARE
YOUR CHILDREN,
FATHER...THIS IS THE
ANDROMEDA
ARMADA!

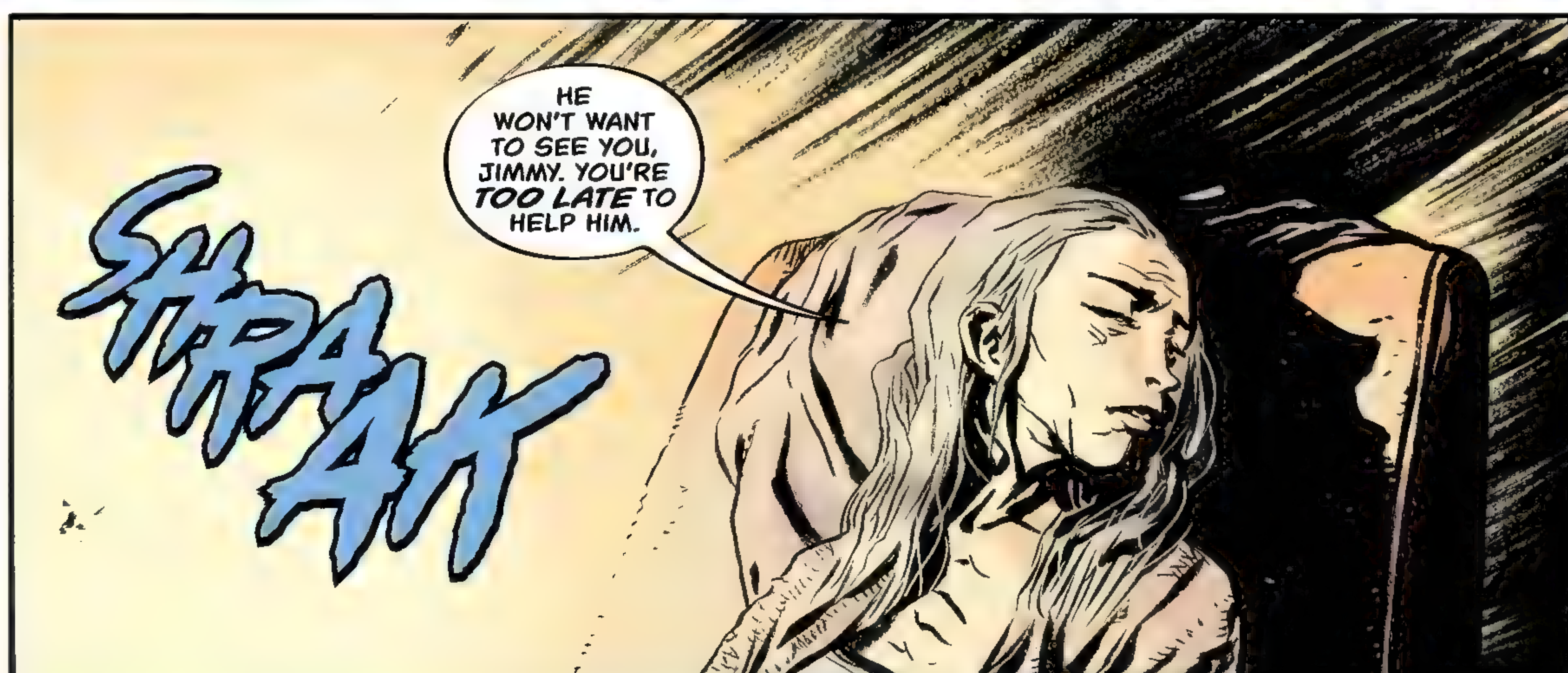
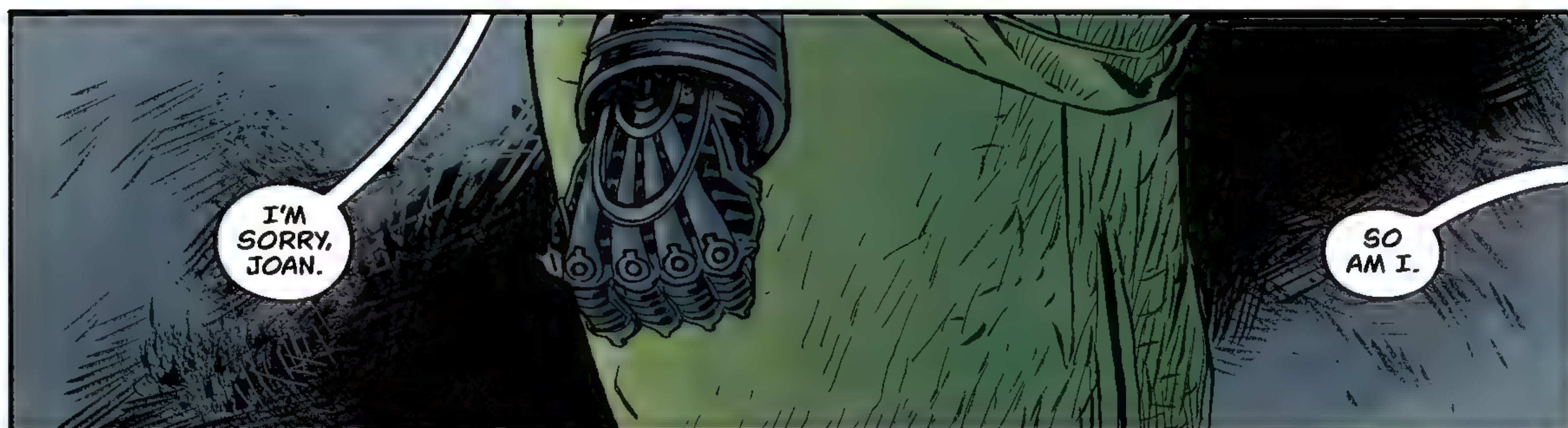
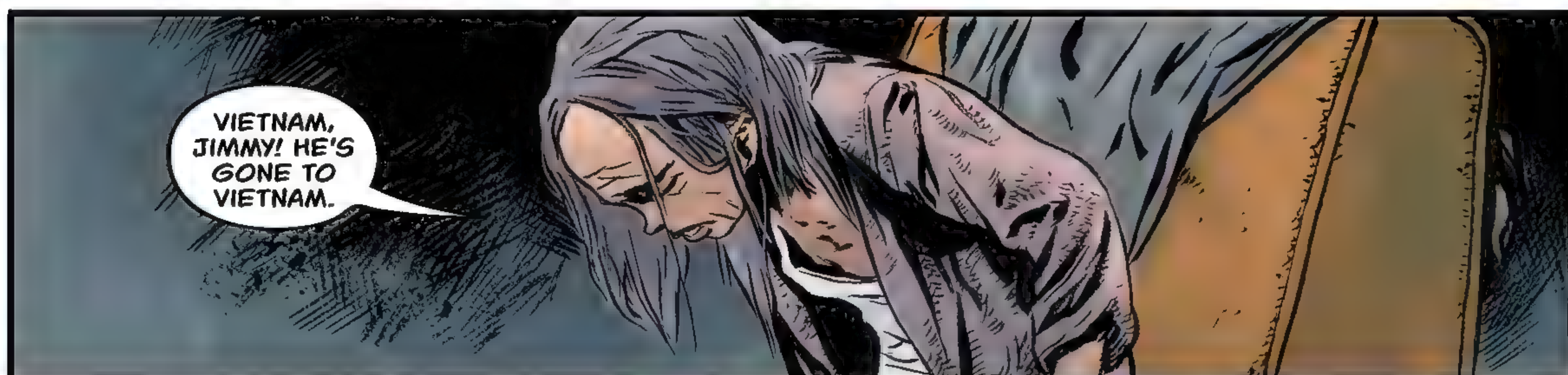
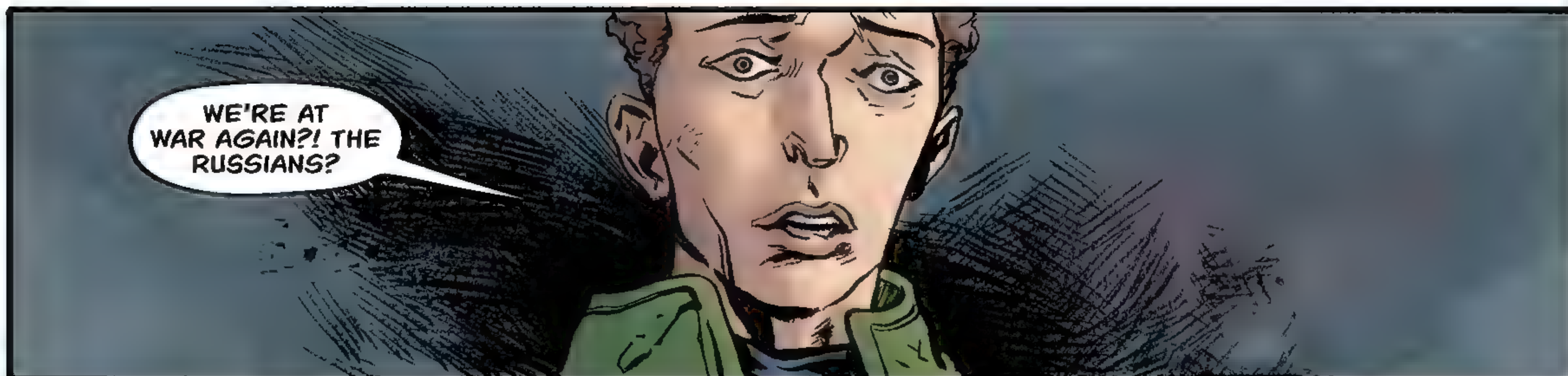


1969











It did not take me long to realize that this war was not like the war I had known.



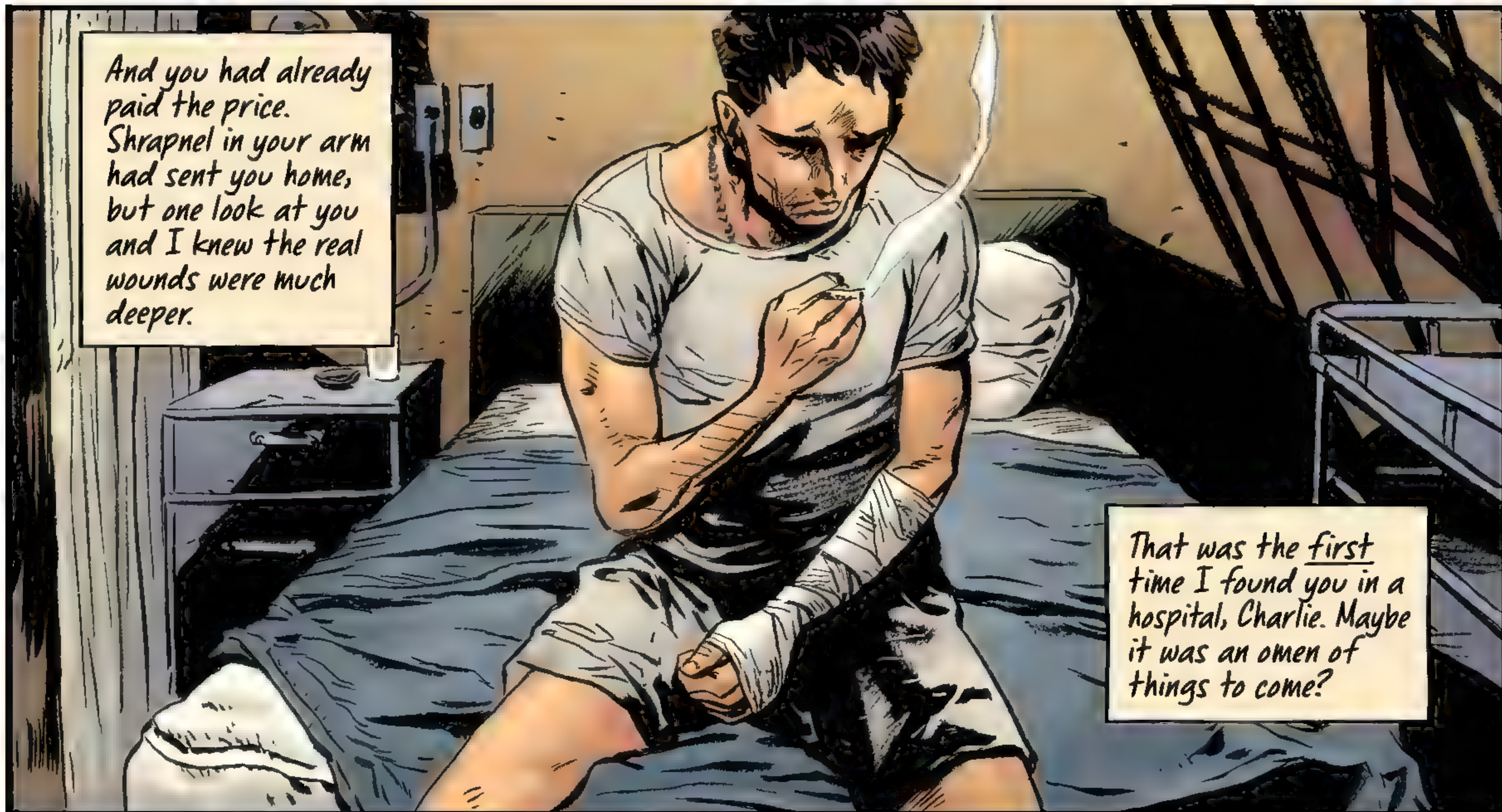
There would be no rallying the Liberty Squadron. No victory parades.



And Joan was right. I was too late to help you here.



You weren't even there anymore. You had already fought your war...

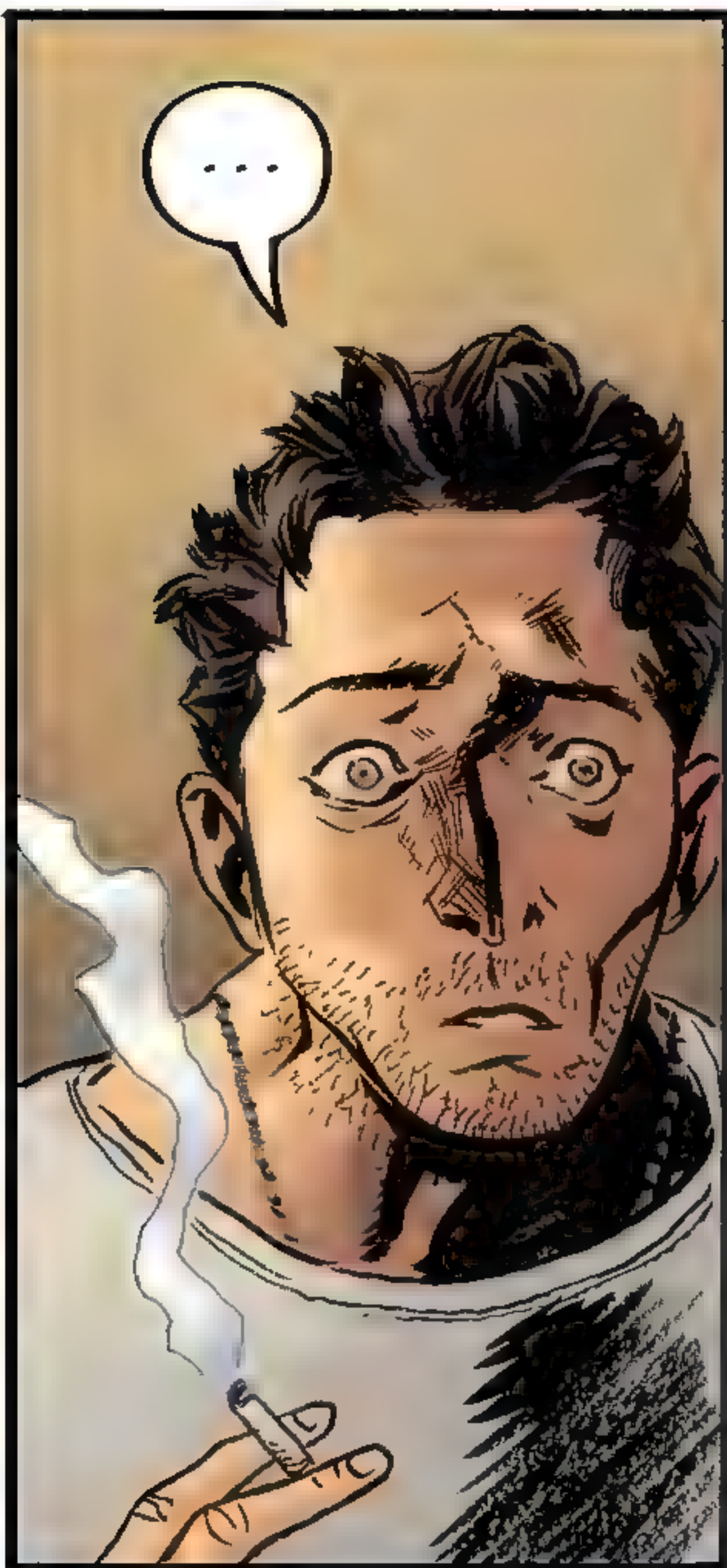


And you had already paid the price. Shrapnel in your arm had sent you home, but one look at you and I knew the real wounds were much deeper.

That was the first time I found you in a hospital, Charlie. Maybe it was an omen of things to come?



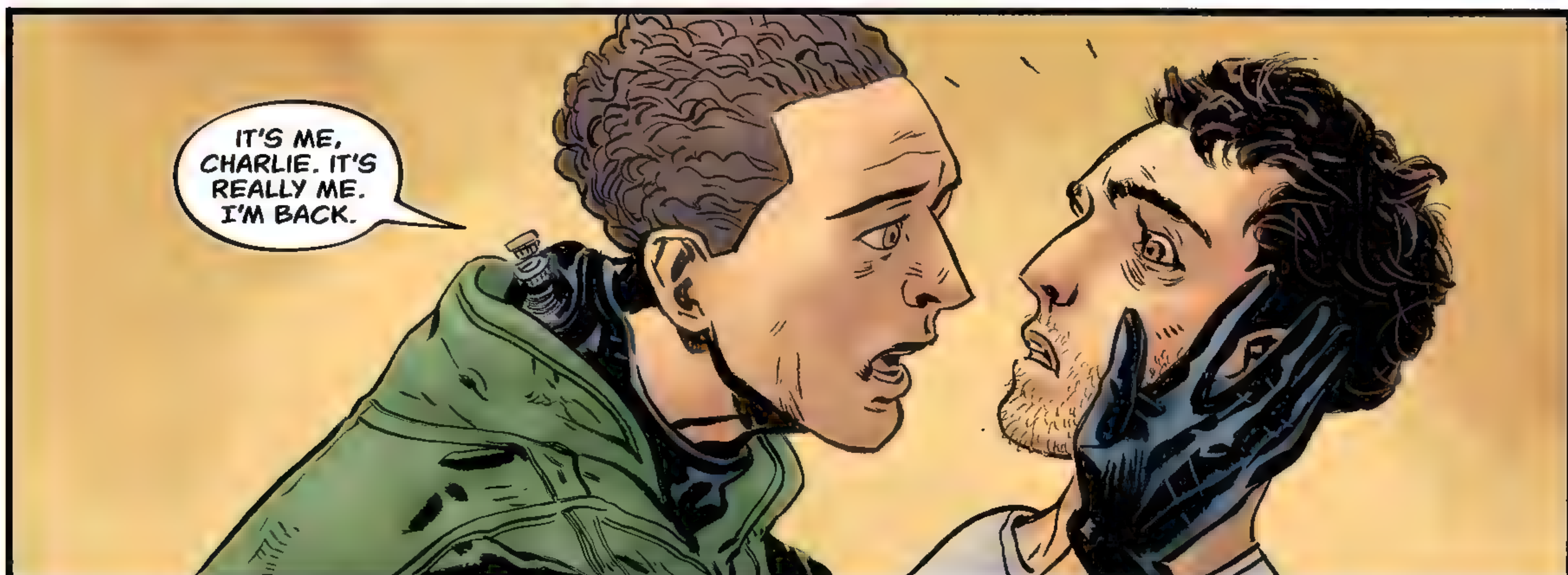
CHARLIE?



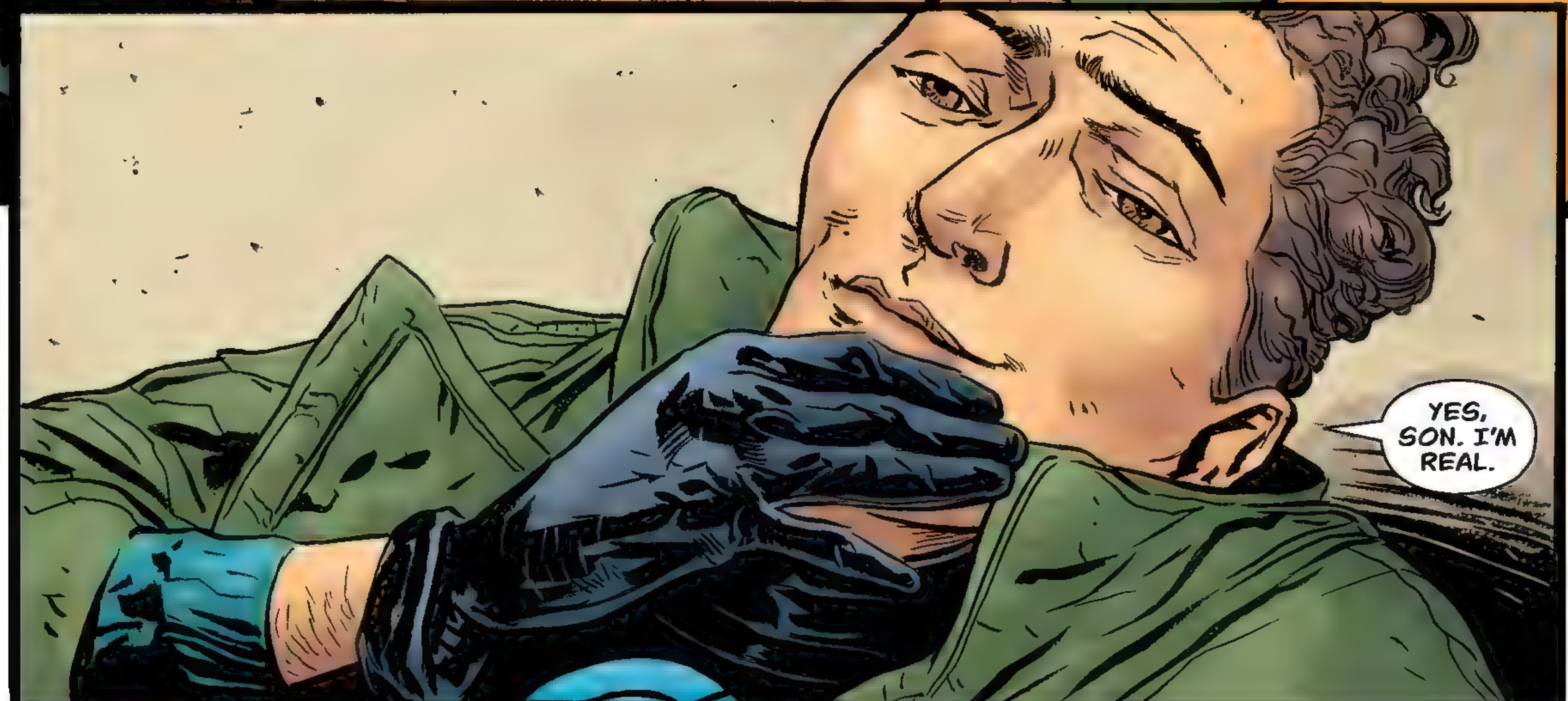
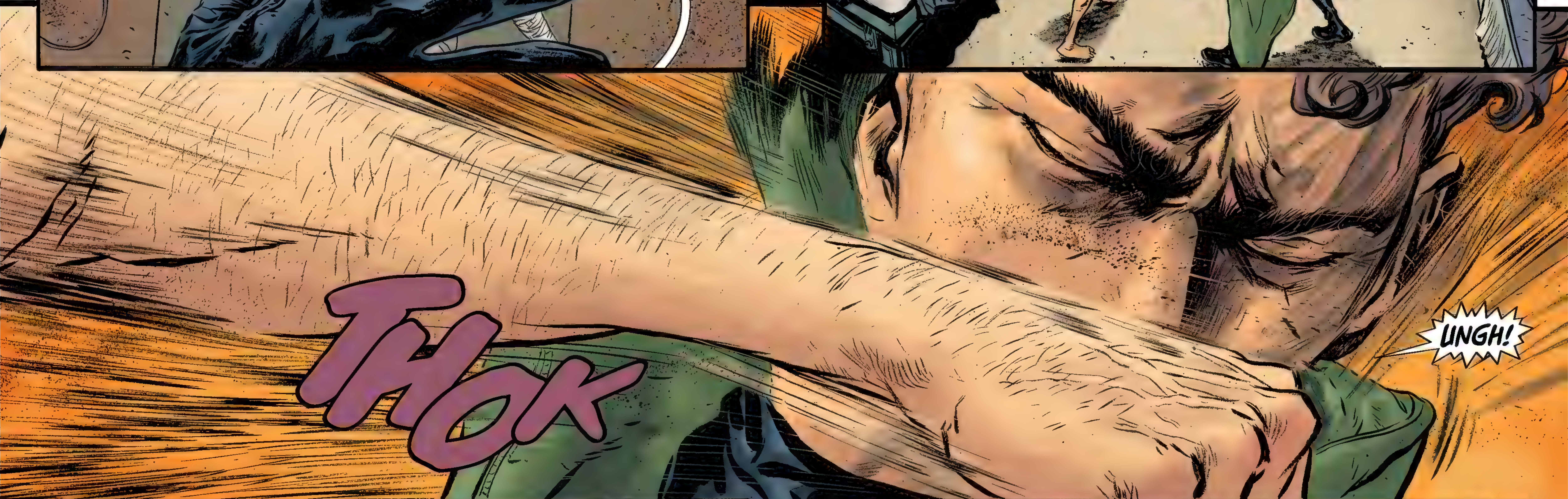
...

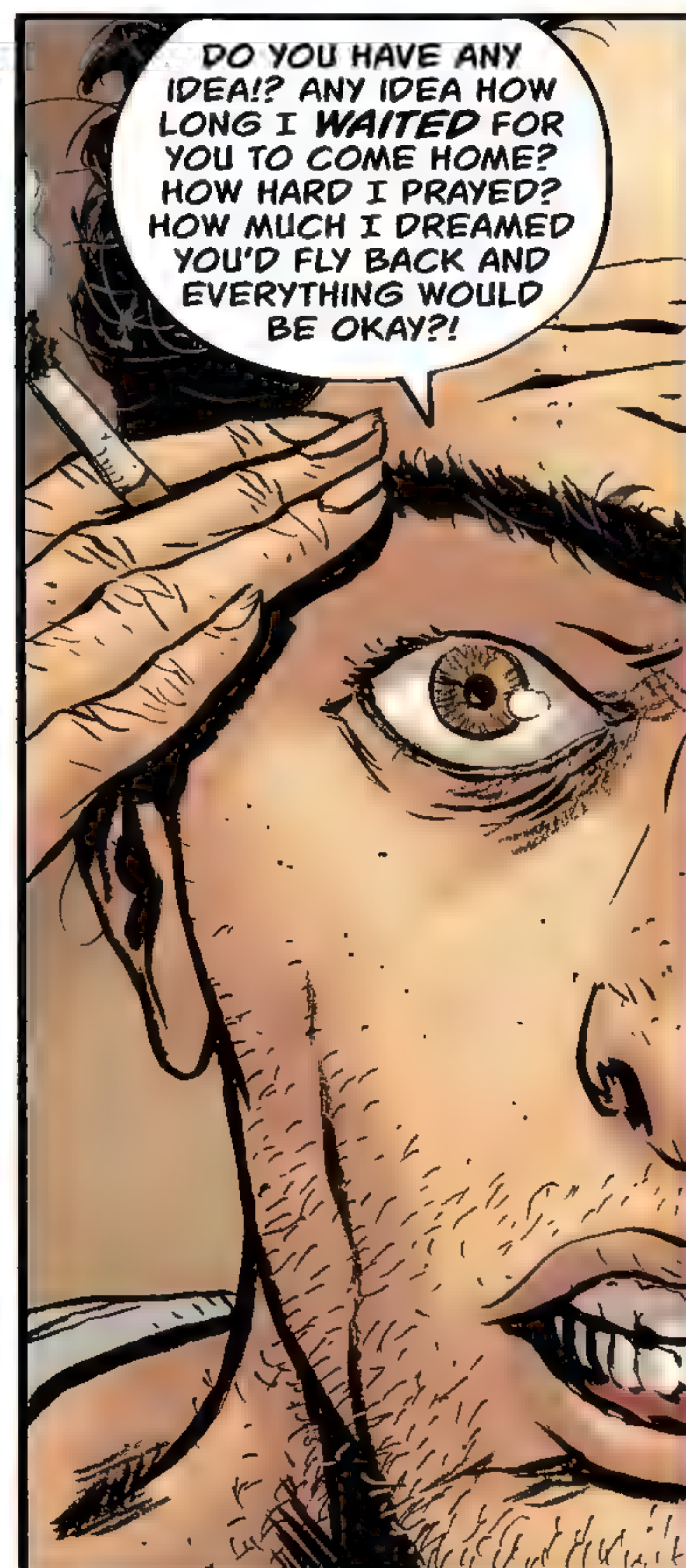
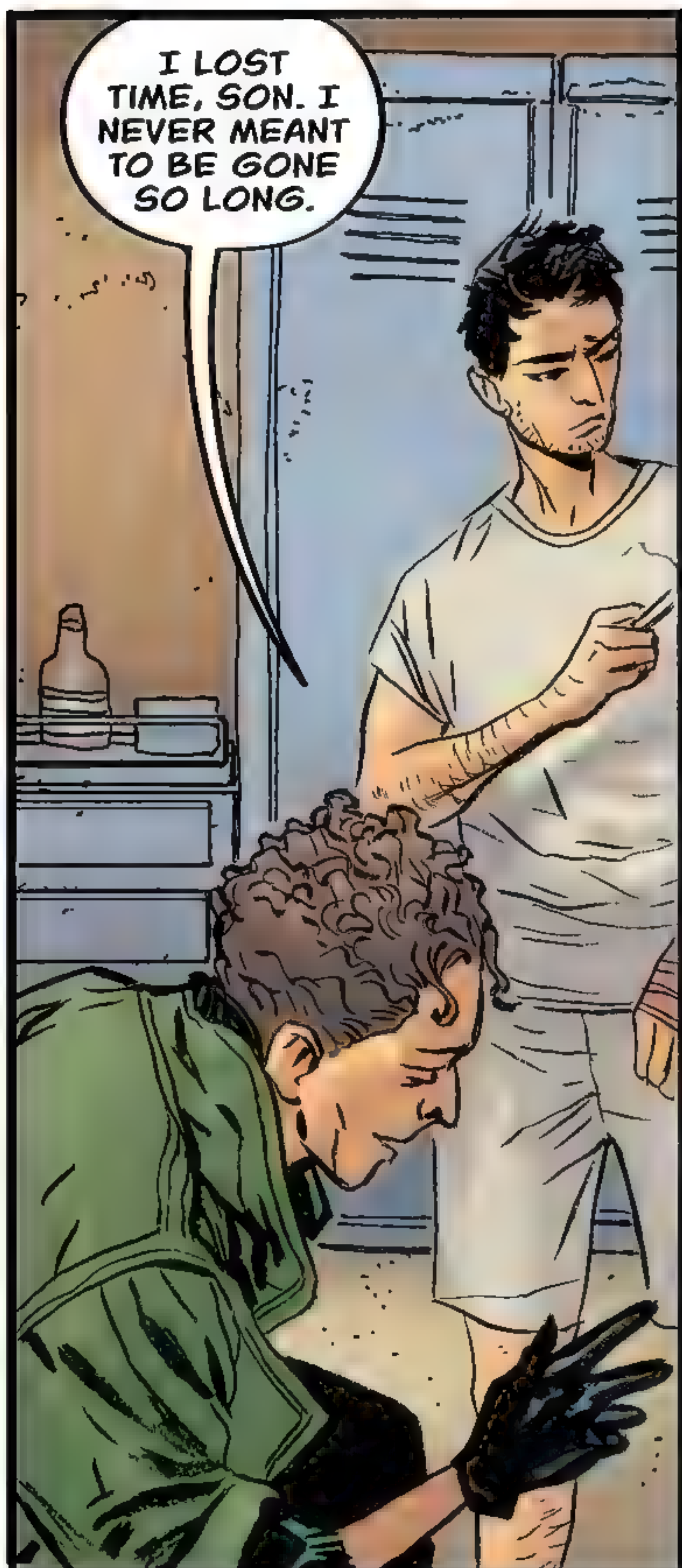


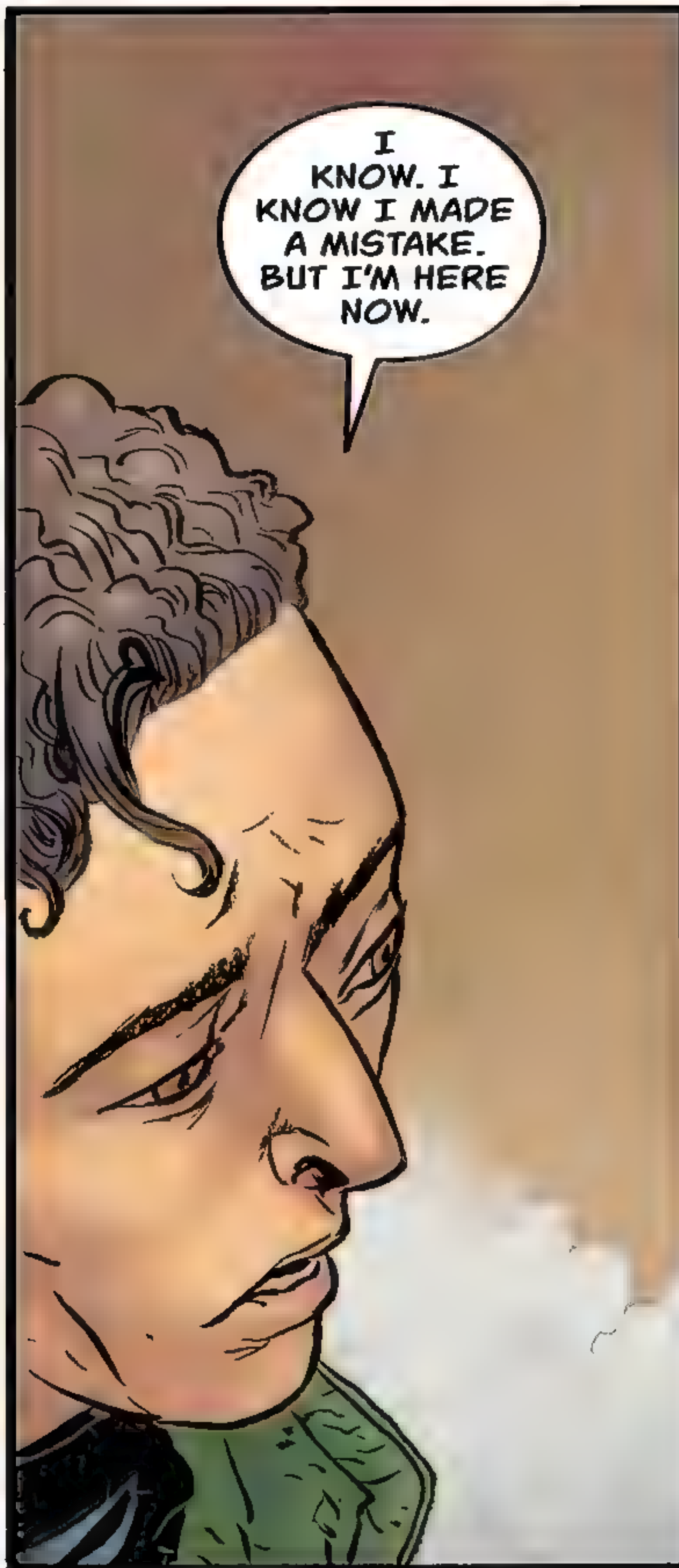
NURSE--I NEED THE NURSE. THIS IS--



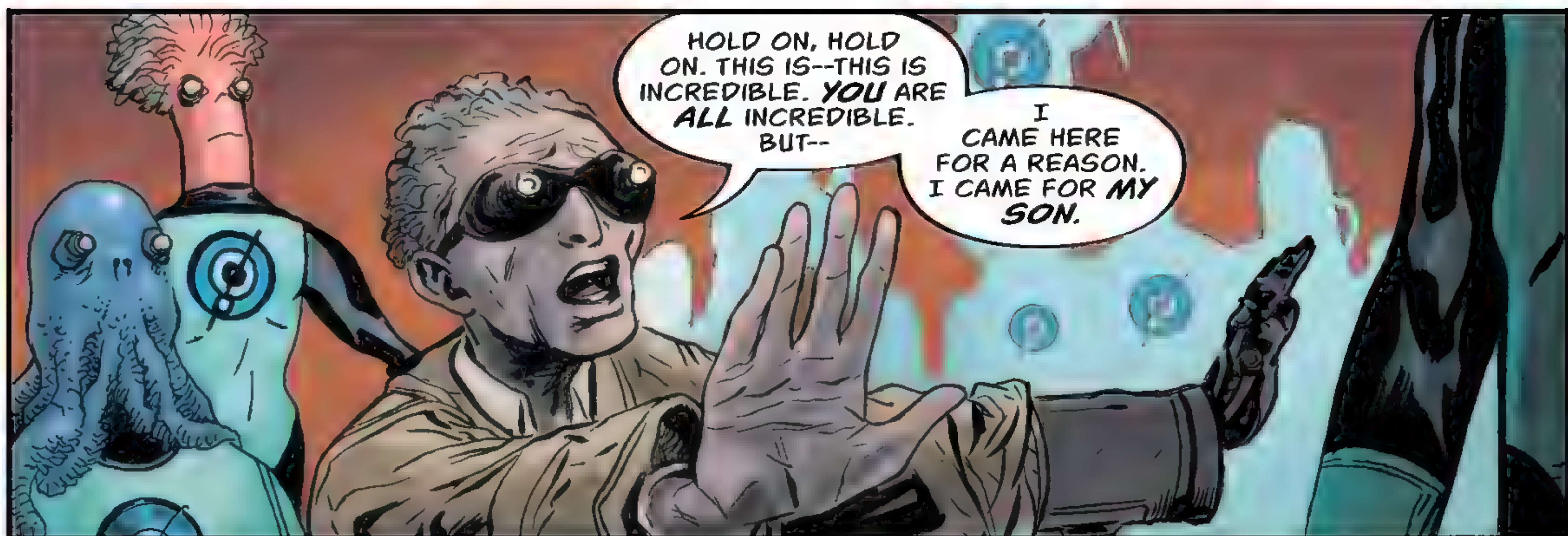
IT'S ME, CHARLIE. IT'S REALLY ME. I'M BACK.











HOLD ON, HOLD ON. THIS IS--THIS IS INCREDIBLE. **YOU** ARE **ALL** INCREDIBLE. BUT--

I CAME HERE FOR A REASON. I CAME FOR MY **SON**.



HE IS SICK. HE IS VERY, VERY SICK.

YES. WE HAVE OBSERVED.

WELL, I KNOW THAT YOUR PEOPLE CAN **HEAL**. I SAW YOU DO IT MANY TIMES.



I NEED YOU TO HEAL HIM. I NEED YOU TO SAVE MY BOY.

THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE.



IMPOSSIBLE?! WHY? PLEASE!

YOUR EARTH BODIES COULD NOT POSSIBLY SURVIVE OUR HEALING PROCESS. IT IS NOT MEANT FOR YOU. WE ARE-- HOW DO YOU SAY-- INCOMPATIBLE.



I AM SORRY, FATHER. IF WE COULD HELP YOU AND YOUR BIRTH KIN, NOTHING WOULD MAKE US MORE PROUD...BUT IT CANNOT BE.



BUT FEAR
NOT, FATHER.
WE ARE YOUR
CHILDREN NOW.
WE ARE **YOUR**
LEGACY.

YOU NEVER HAVE TO
BE ALONE AGAIN. WE
WILL BE YOUR FAMILY. WE
WILL BE YOUR KIN. WE SHARE
YOUR POWER. TOGETHER WE
CAN EXPLORE THE
UNIVERSE AND ALL ITS
WONDERS.



WAIT, YOUR POWER.
YOUR COSMIC
GAUNTLETS...HOW
DID YOU?

LET US
SHOW YOU,
FATHER.

SHOW ME?
SHOW ME
WHAT?



AS
I SAID, WE OBSERVED
YOU AND THEN TRIED TO
REPLICATE THE EXPERIMENTS
THAT GAVE YOU YOUR POWER.
BUT WITH TIME WE DISCOVERED
HOW TO DO MORE THAN
THAT.



MORE
THAN
THAT?

SHRRAK

WE
HAVE FOUND THE
SOURCE...WE HAVE
ALSO FOUND THE
PARA-ZONE!

ALL
IT'S WONDERS
ARE OPEN TO US
NOW, TOO.



AND
NOW IT CAN
BE YOURS TOO,
FATHER. THE INFINITE.
THE ANSWERS TO
EVERYTHING.



CHAPTER FOUR



It wasn't what I expected. I mean--I don't know how I could have expected anything specific. The Para-zone was the very definition of the unknown.



But I had touched it once, all those years ago, and stolen a piece of its power. I thought that was enough.



But seeing it there...open and waiting for me. I swear I've never wanted anything so badly in all my life. Charlie.

My whole damn life...

1971

My whole.

Damn.

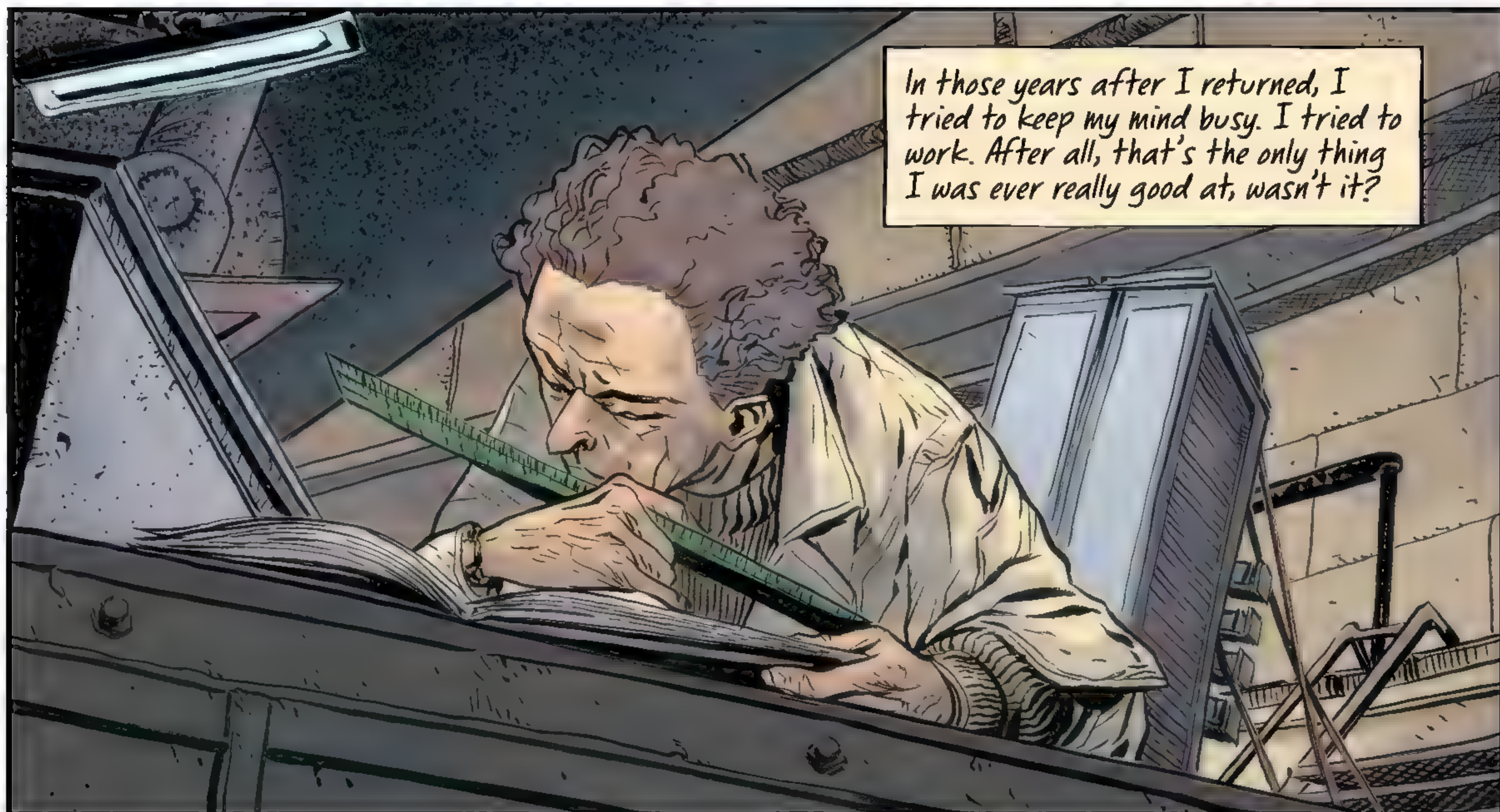
Life.

1975

Time is such a
funny thing,
isn't it?

How can so many
years go so fast,
and yet others feel
like they drag on
for an eternity?

1981



In those years after I returned, I tried to keep my mind busy. I tried to work. After all, that's the only thing I was ever really good at, wasn't it?

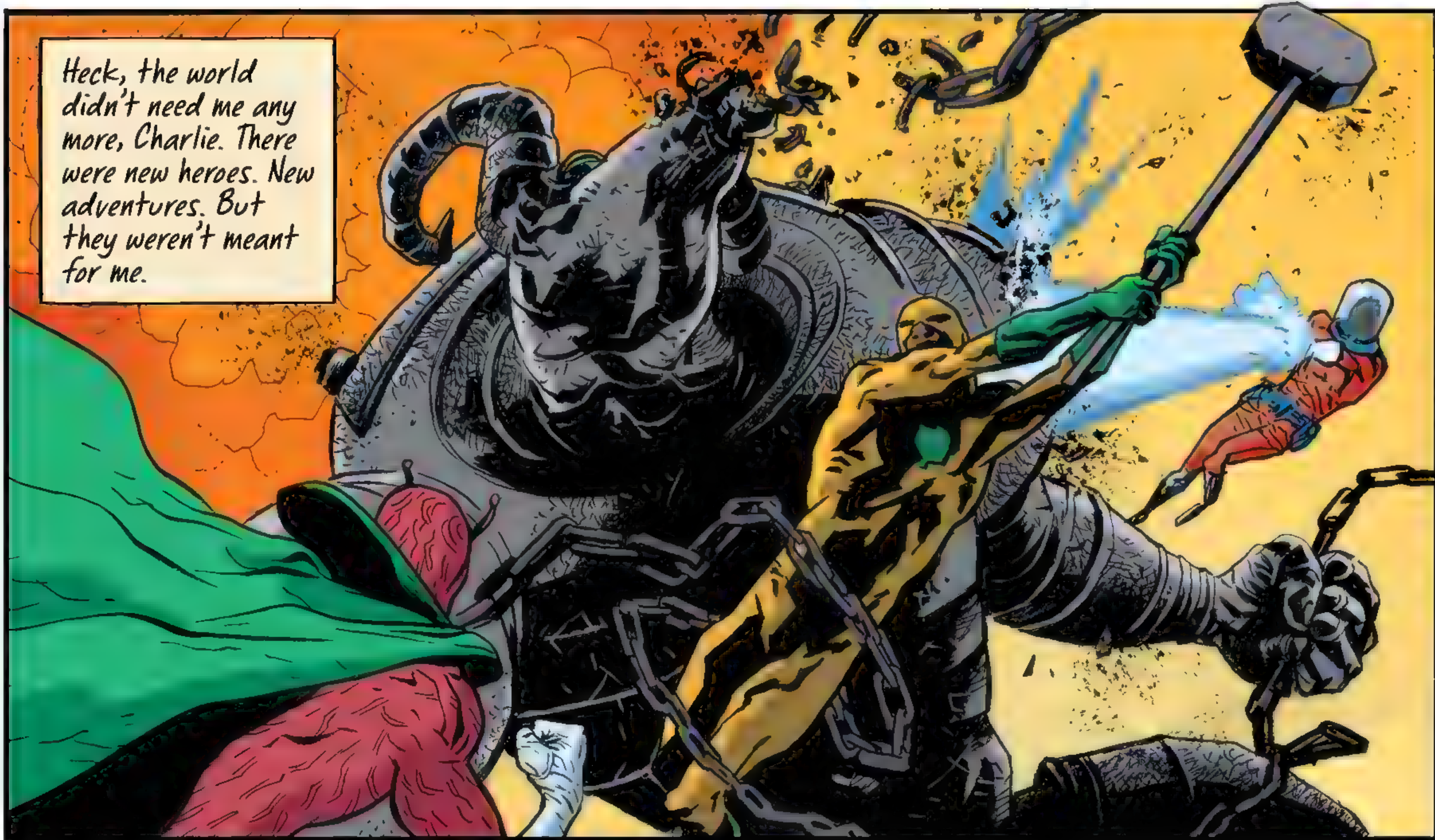
1984



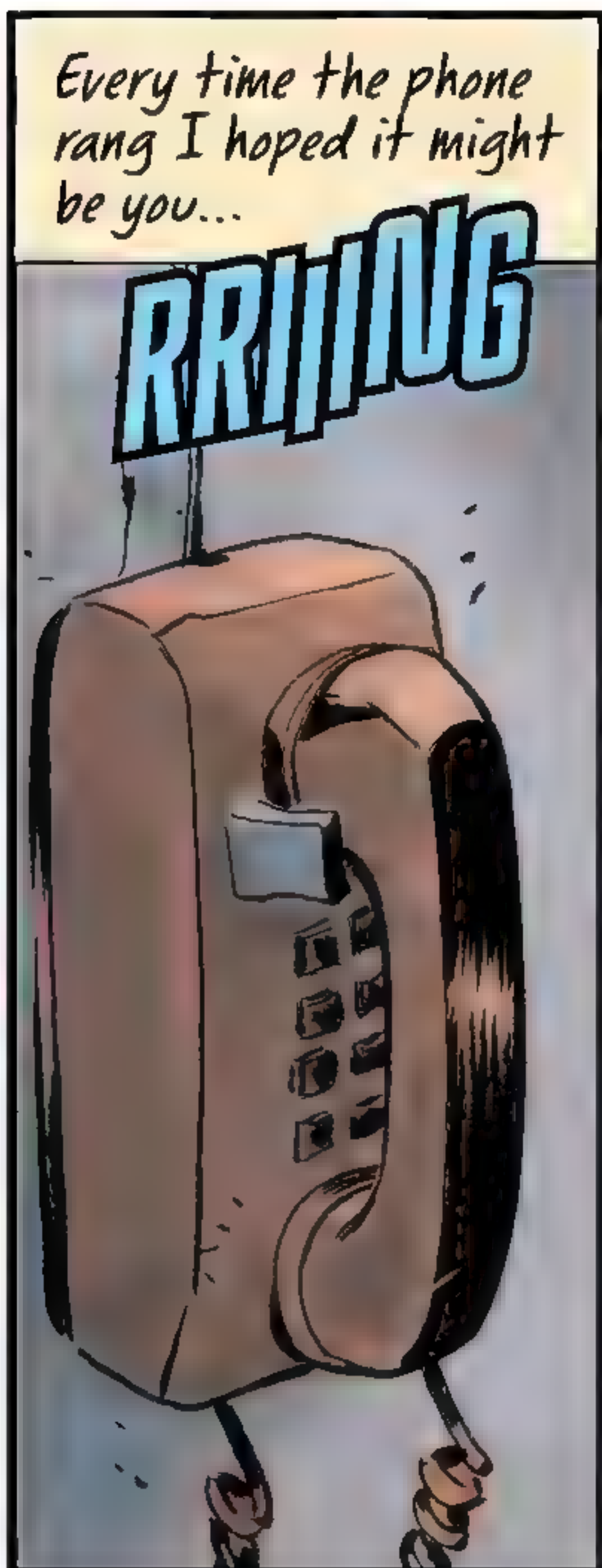
I tried to stay in touch with your mother. My work, all my new patents--they could have made her life more comfortable. She could have gotten out of that old house. But she never returned my calls. She never opened my mail. She wouldn't see me.



It wasn't only space I gave up after I got back. I hung up my costume too.



Heck, the world didn't need me any more, Charlie. There were new heroes. New adventures. But they weren't meant for me.



Every time the phone rang I hoped it might be you...



But it never was.

HELLO?



JIMMY? JIMMY ROBINSON?

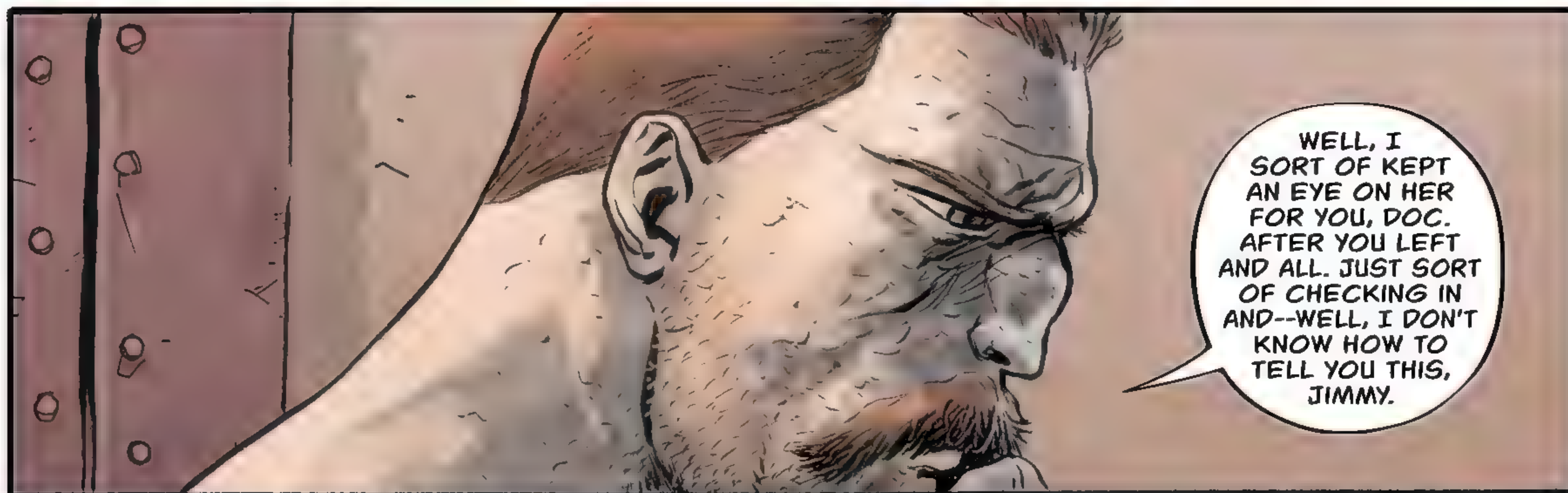
YES. WHO IS--

IT'S ABE. ABE SLAM. LOOK, JIMMY, I HATE TO CALL YOU OUT OF NOWHERE LIKE THIS BUT, WELL...I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS.



IT'S
YOUR EX.
JOAN.

JOAN?
WHAT IS--
WHAT'S THIS
ABOUT,
ABE?



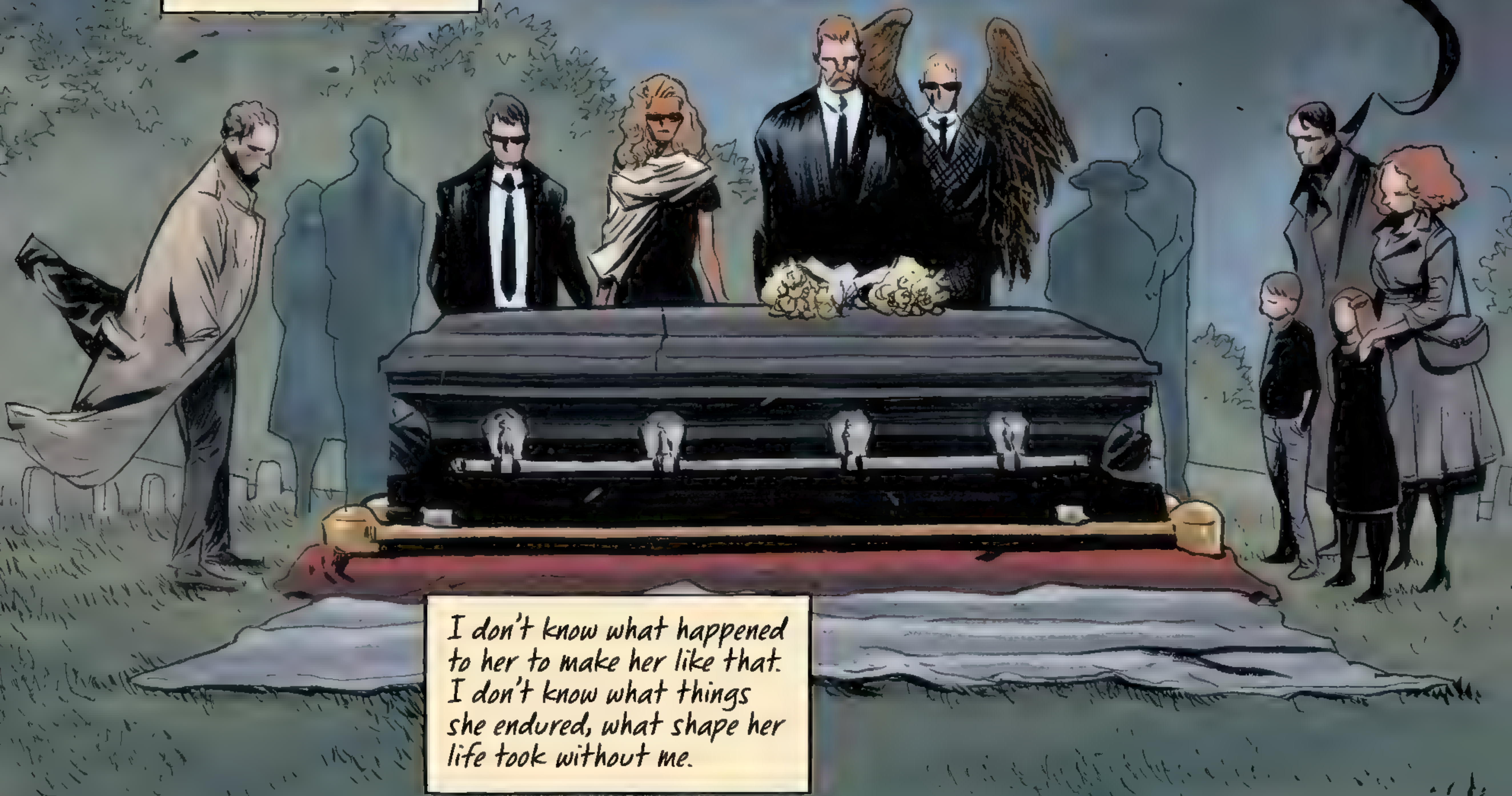
WELL, I
SORT OF KEPT
AN EYE ON HER
FOR YOU, DOC.
AFTER YOU LEFT
AND ALL. JUST SORT
OF CHECKING IN
AND--WELL, I DON'T
KNOW HOW TO
TELL YOU THIS,
JIMMY.



JOANIE
DIED LAST
NIGHT.

I--I hate to admit this, Charlie, but I felt like Joan died long before that. And I know that is, at least in part, my fault.

The Joan I knew disappeared when I was off in space. When I came back the woman I found was--she was a shell.

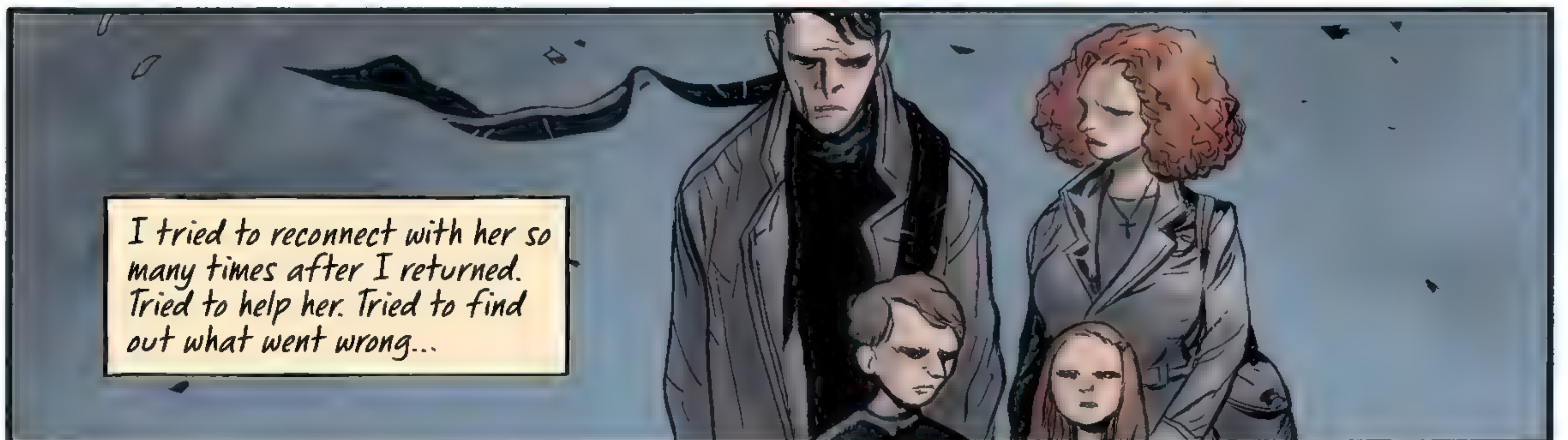


I don't know what happened to her to make her like that. I don't know what things she endured, what shape her life took without me.

I don't know what happened to her when I was away to make you both hate me so much.



I tried to reconnect with her so many times after I returned. Tried to help her. Tried to find out what went wrong...

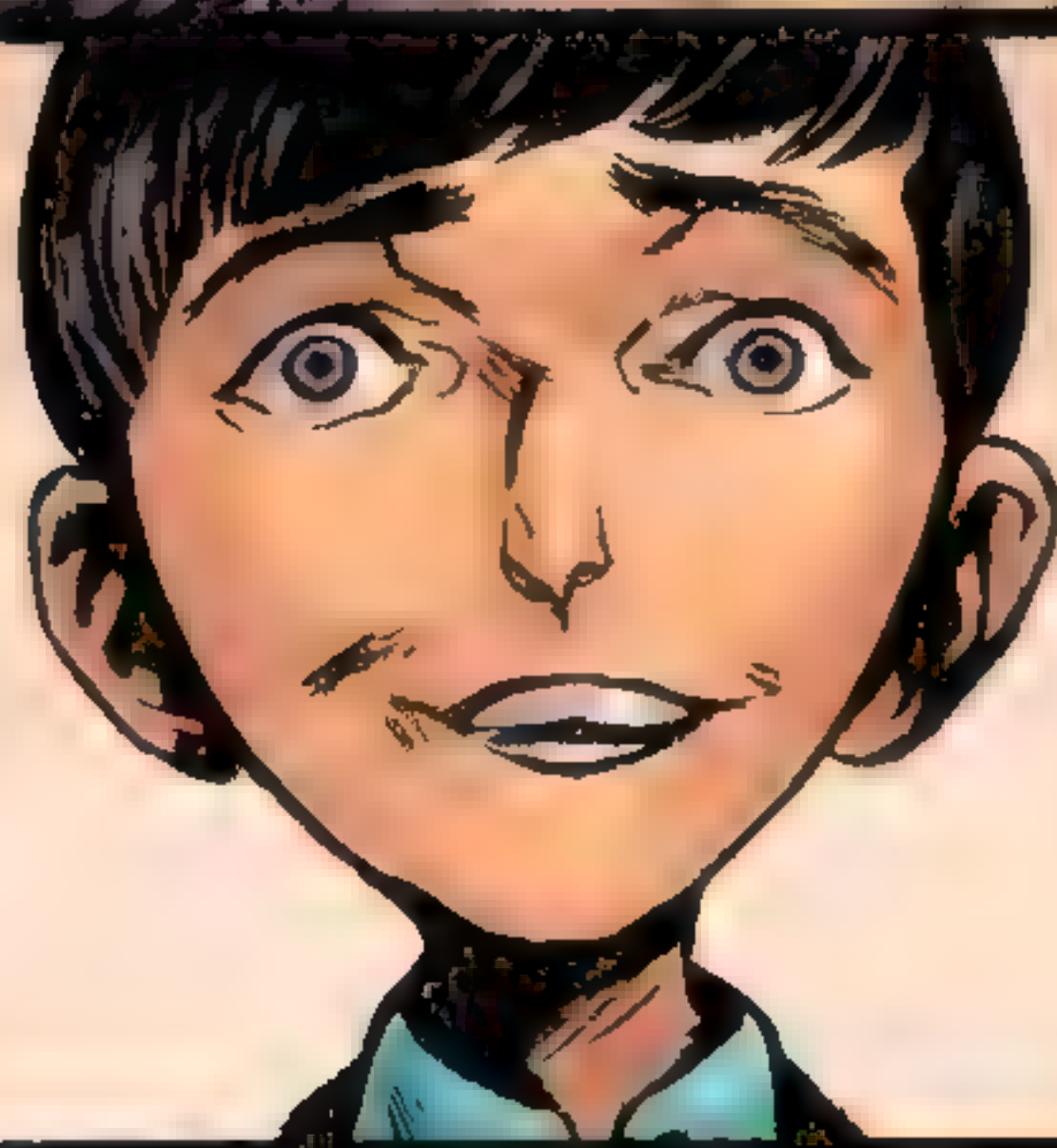


...But she wouldn't let me back in. And now you'll never be able to tell me either.

I guess I'll never know. A mystery I can't uncover. A problem I can't solve.



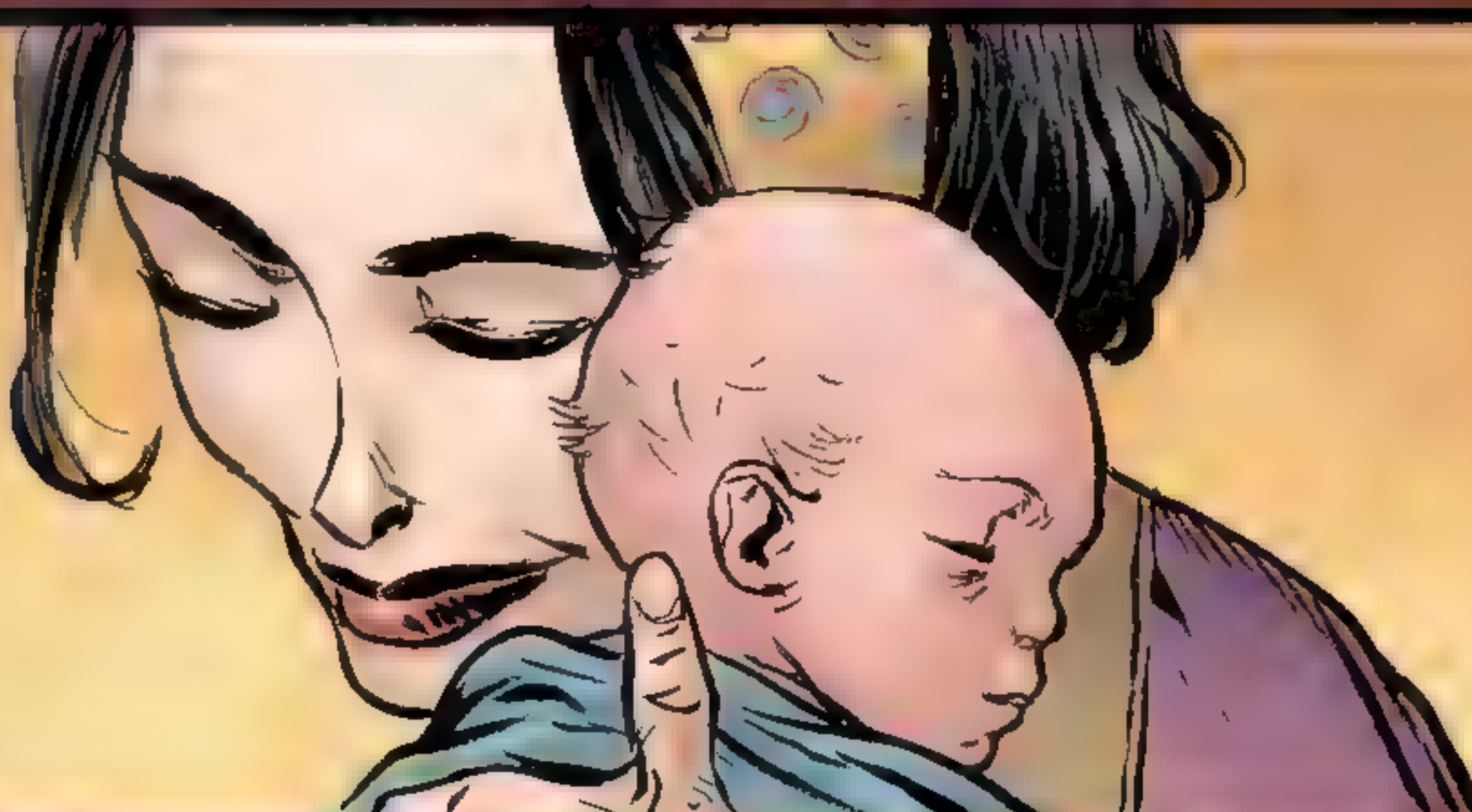
*While I was away chasing my
mysteries in space, indulging
my boyhood fantasies, your
boyhood was slipping away.*



*Only moments for me, but
a lifetime of hurt and pain
for you. A lifetime I wasn't
here to save you from.*



And I just left your mother to try and navigate that life with you. I was off exploring new societies and seeing wonders no man had ever seen, and she--



Hell, who am I kidding, I left her long before that, didn't I? I was always in my lab. I was always working and she was--she was waiting.



And finally that waiting got to be too much, and I guess she collapsed under the weight of it.





Hell. Listen to me blabber. Like I know something, Charlie. Like I have it all figured out.

Truth is, I don't know anything. All those years of searching and I'm just as lost as the day I started.



I tried to go back to work, but my heart just wasn't in it anymore. It had all passed me by. I had no hunger.



So I closed up the old place. I let the dust in. Let it settle on my old bones. And I moved away.



I found somewhere quiet. Somewhere where I could really be alone.



I wouldn't say I was happy there. But I wasn't unhappy either. I just...was.

The days passed. I was still here. Nothing more. Nothing less.



I admit I often thought of just leaving. Just going off to the stars and never coming back. But something held me in place. Something was weighing me down.



I guess now the weight of my own life had caught up to me.



Anyway, one day last week I had a visitor. An old friend. (Why is it Abe only shows up with bad news?)

DOC...



He was the one that told me you were sick.

But then I guess I'm just talking in circles now, aren't I? You know the rest.



I came back here. I tried to see you.

Then I went to space. I went to space to find a cure for you only to be disappointed again. The Aliens couldn't help you any more than I could.

But they did show me something else...

...They showed me the doorway to everything.

ALL THESE THINGS ARE IN THE PAST, FATHER. THE PAST CANNOT BE UNDONE. THAT IS THE ONE CONSTANT.

YOUR BIRTH SON WILL SOON DIE, FATHER. THIS IS THE WAY OF THINGS. YOU CANNOT SAVE HIM. THERE IS NO REASON LEFT FOR YOU TO RETURN TO EARTH.

BUT THERE IS SO MUCH STILL **AHEAD** OF YOU.

TOGETHER WE CAN UNCOVER MIRACLES. TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE THE UNIVERSE AND UNRAVEL ALL OF ITS MYSTERIES.

JOIN US, FATHER. LEAD US INTO THE UNKNOWN.



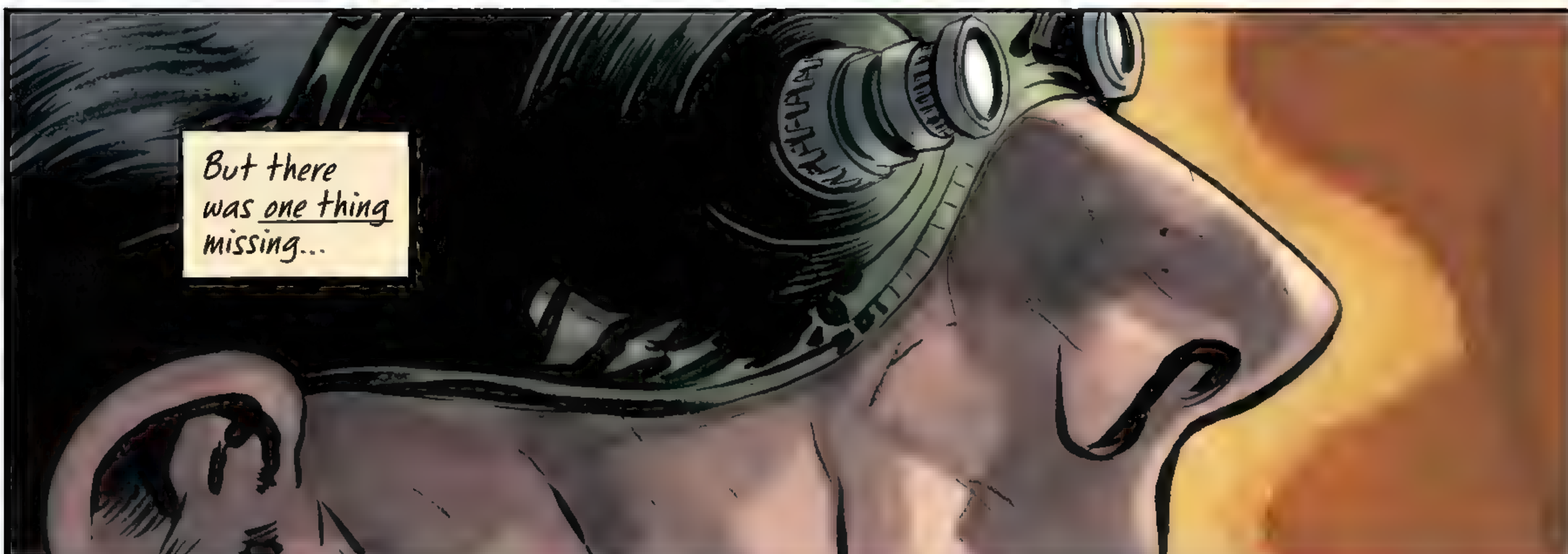
After years of
searching it was
right there, just
waiting for me
to step through.



A doorway to
the infinite,
Charlie.



My heart's desire.
Everything I ever
wanted.



But there
was one thing
missing...

NOW.



...AND THAT'S WHY I'M HERE NOW, CHARLIE. THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU ALL OF THIS.

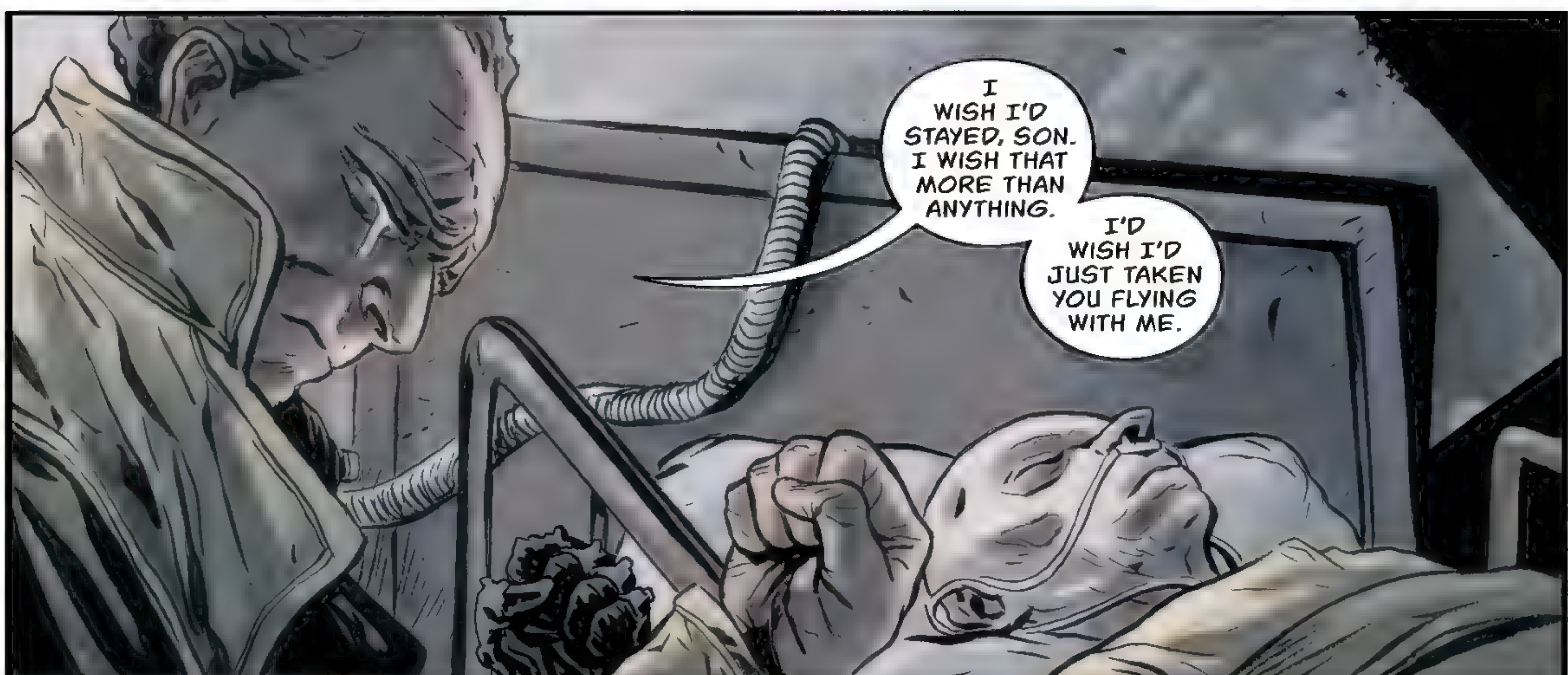
I CAME BACK. I KNOW IT'S TOO LATE. BUT I CAME BACK TO YOU.

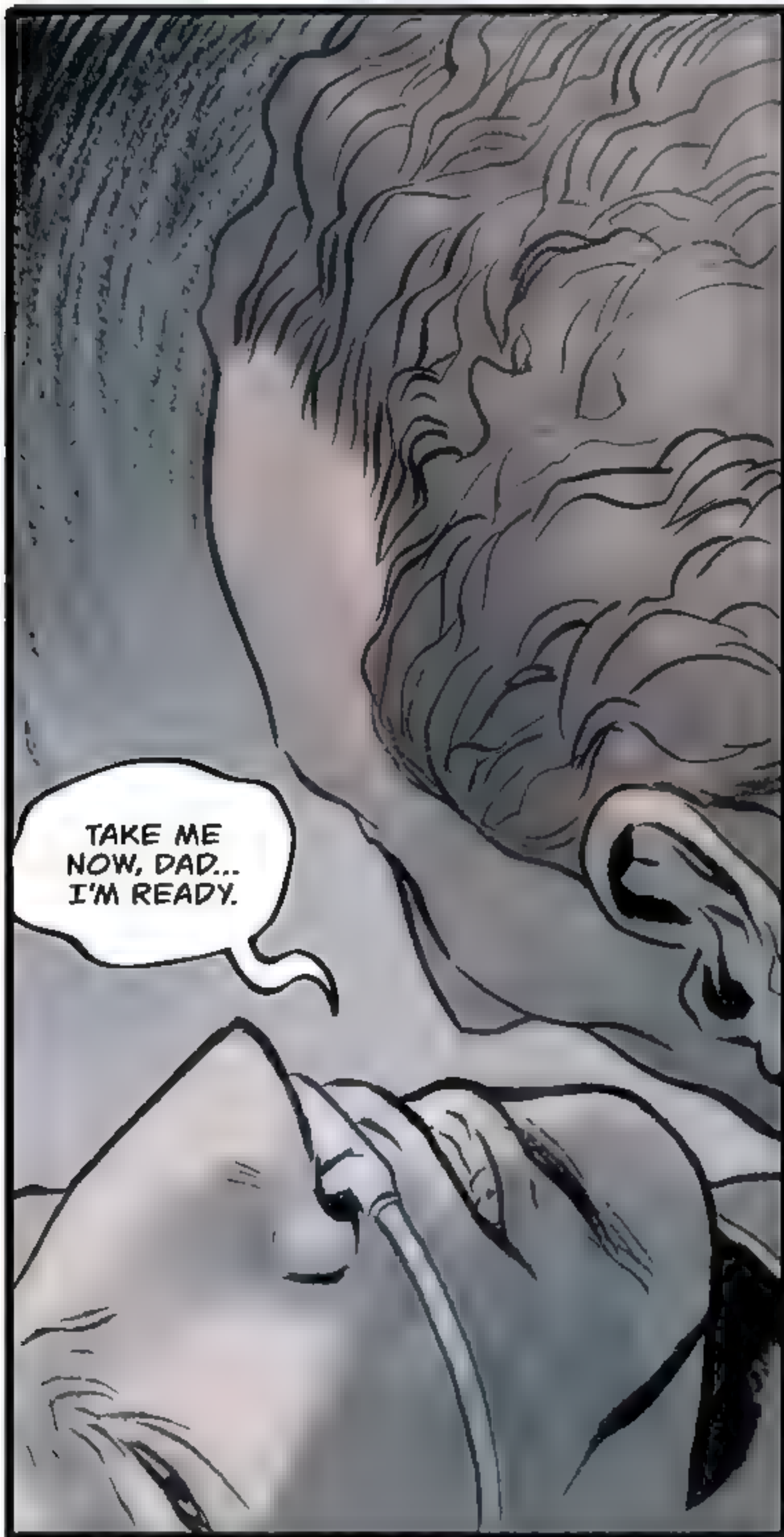


AND I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT ME HERE. I KNOW THAT I SHOULDN'T BE HERE AT ALL. BUT I HAD TO COME. ONE LAST TIME.



I HAD TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING. JUST ONCE, I HAD TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO ME. WHY THINGS WENT THE WAY THEY DID.





You're ready so I
pick you up and I
take you into the
sky with me at last.



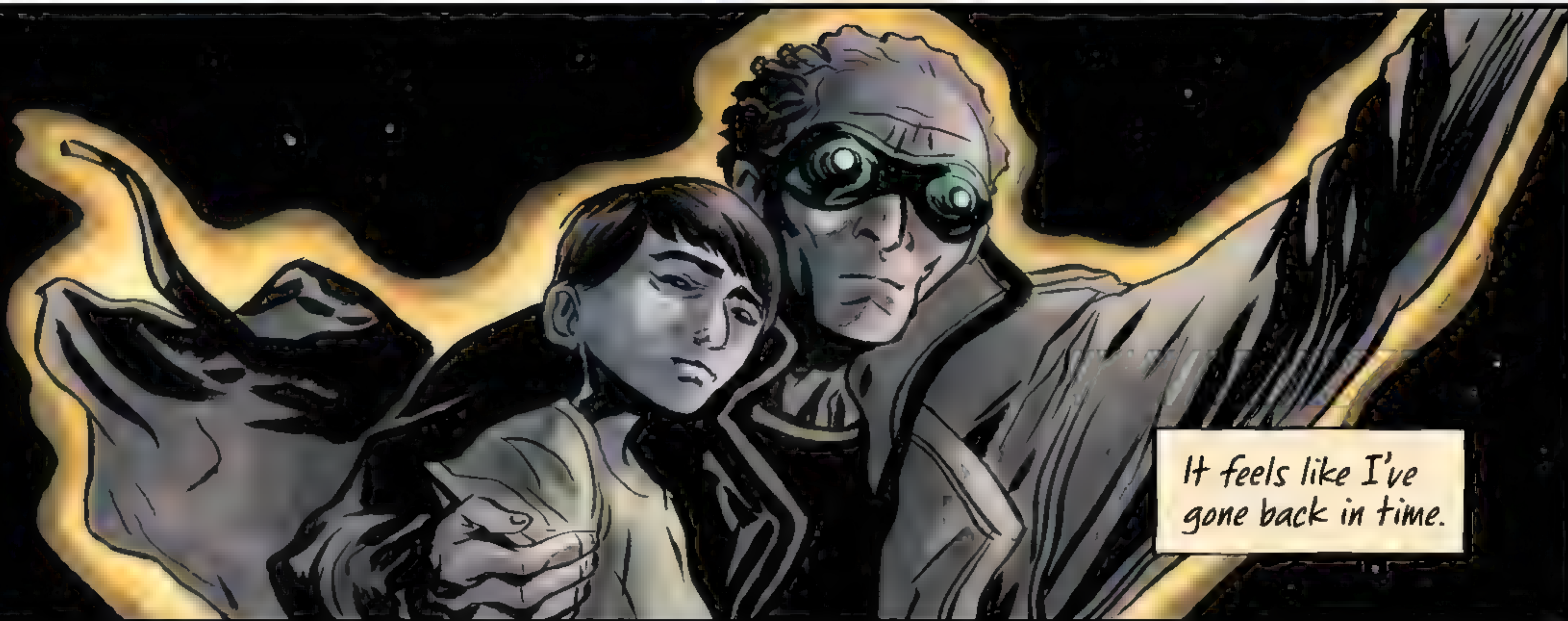
I look down once and
I see a slight smile on
your face, Charlie.



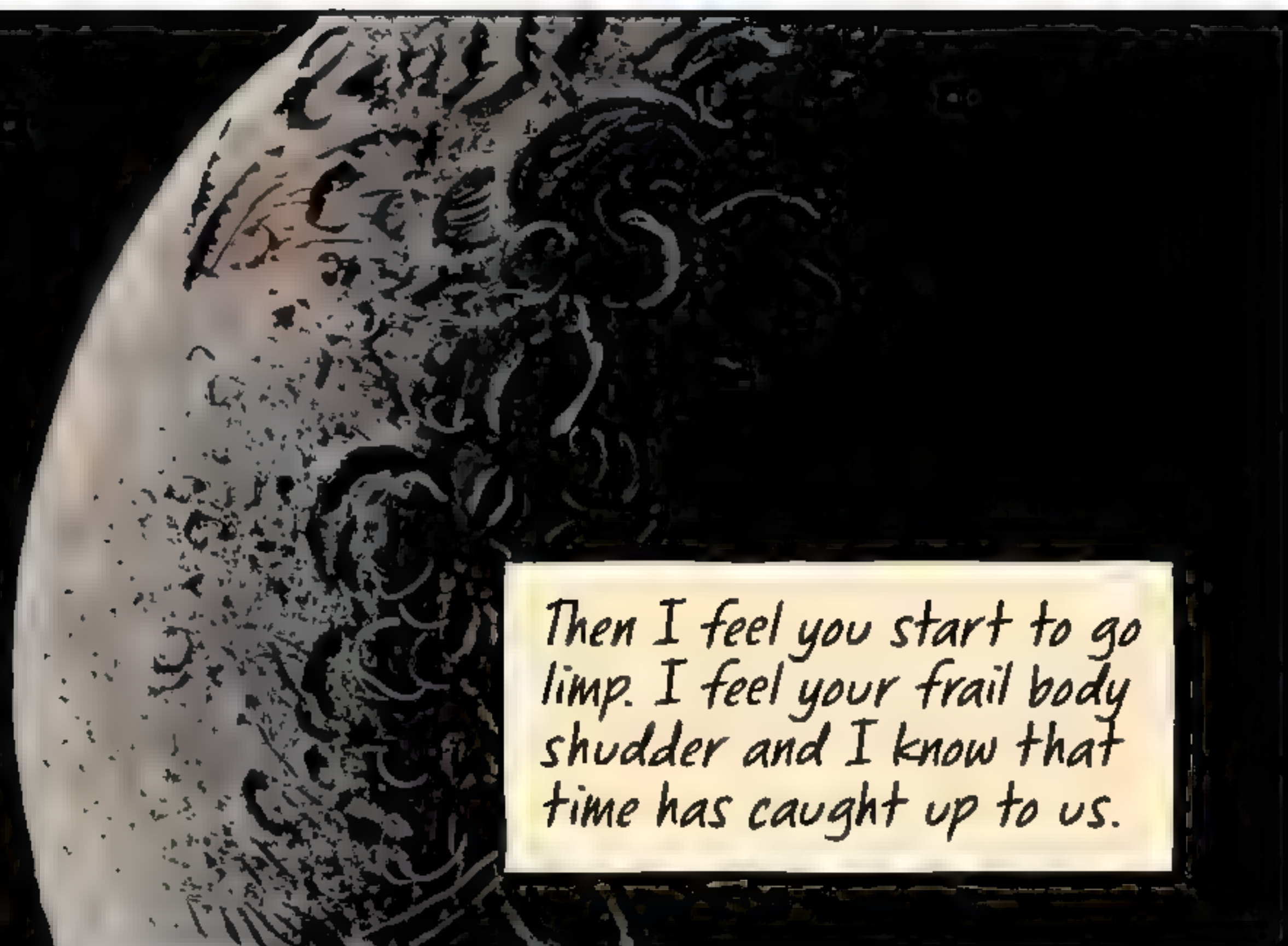
And it
feels good.



It feels like I've
gone back in time.



Then I feel you start to go
limp. I feel your frail body
shudder and I know that
time has caught up to us.

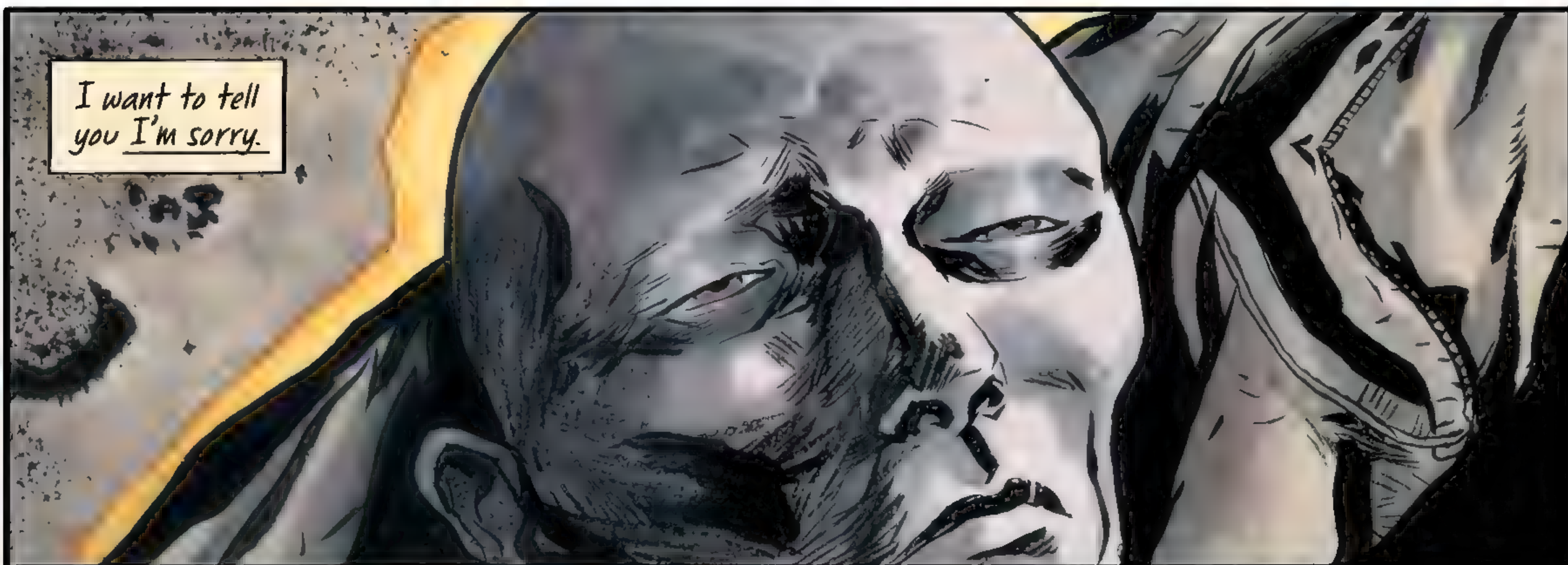




Here I thought I was done
talking, but in that instant I
want to say so much, Charlie.



I want to tell
you I'm sorry.



I want to tell
you I love you.



But of course there is
no sound here...there
are no more words...



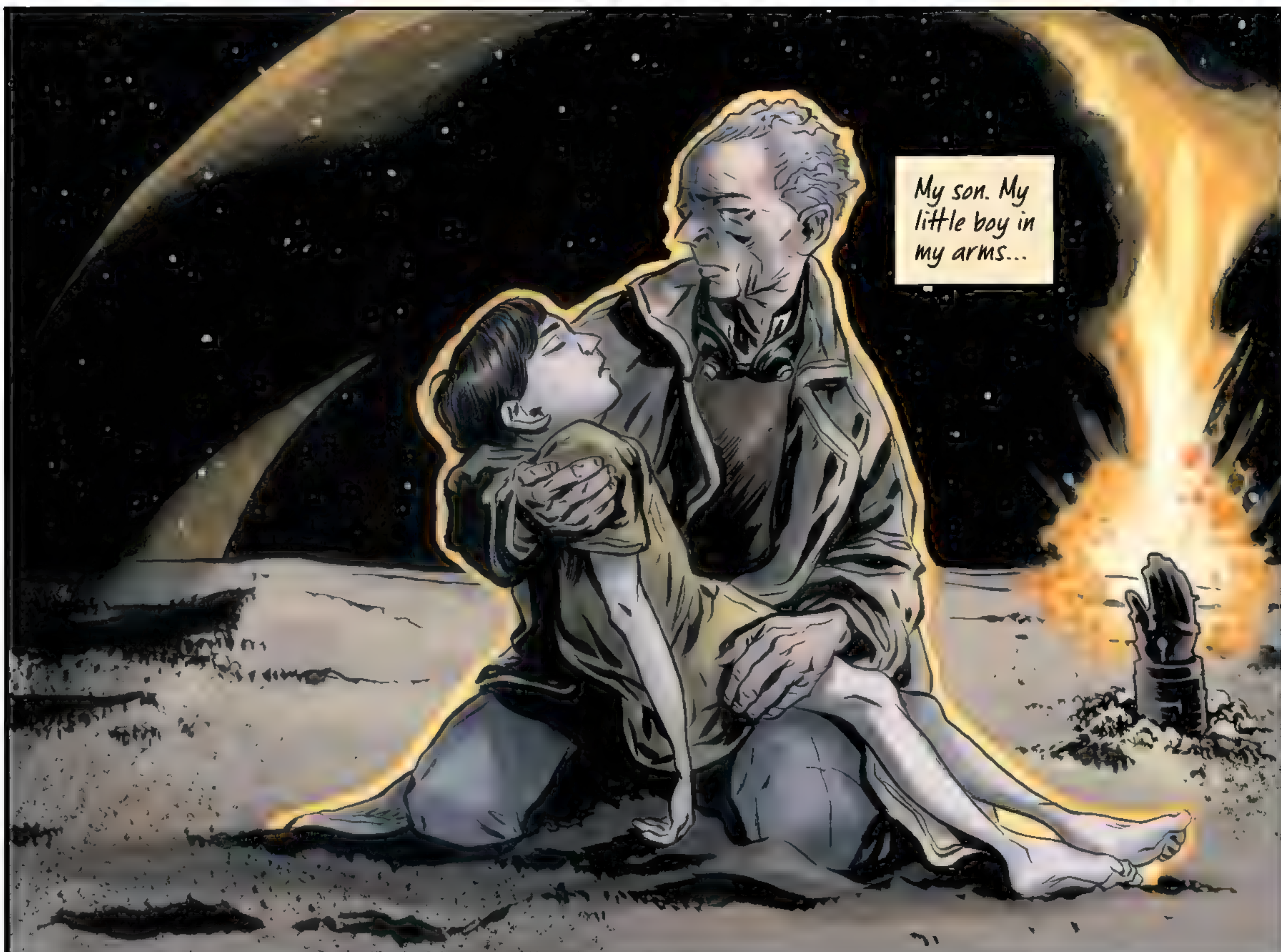
There is
only me...



Me and you.



My son. My
little boy in
my arms...



...The way it was
always supposed to be.



**THE
END**

DOCTOR ANDROMEDA™

SKETCHBOOK

NOTES BY MAX FIUMARA AND JEFF LEMIRE

Doc 1986 - Late 20's



DOCTOR ANDROMEDA

Max Fiumara: Doctor Andromeda's original design was created by David Rubín, and then I added my take on it. I was interested in making something special with the costume shapes—something more notorious. Also I added some more science-y features to the costume like making the goggles look like a pair of tiny telescopic lenses.

With Jimmy's design I thought he needed to look older than he really was and also sad and dejected, so I made him wear clothes that would look like what he would wear from his past life.



JOAN

MF: Joan is my favorite character. I wanted to make her strong at the beginning of the series and not so much at the end. She has to go through a lot of awful stuff in her life, so she needed to look tough, but also to have that look in her eyes that something is not right because of her husband.

Jeff Lemire: I was worried that Max wouldn't want to draw the 1940s New York that the script called for, but was pleasantly surprised when he told me that this was his favorite era of American history. He really excelled at creating real characters, and having them page on the page in a realistic way.

(FACING) DOCTOR ANDROMEDA #4 PAGE 22

MF: Not much to say for this emotive scene. I just wanted to make a great, final shot of Doc accepting his reality while hugging the fragile body of his dead son in the emptiness of space.



THIS DUAL-NARRATIVE STORY SET IN THE WORLD OF THE EISNER AWARD-WINNING *BLACK HAMMER* SERIES CHRONICLES THE LEGACY OF A GOLDEN AGE SUPERHERO.

An aged crime fighter desperately wants to reconnect with his estranged son, who he hoped would one day take the mantle of Doctor Andromeda. Over the course of the story we learn his World War II-era origin, how he got his powers, his exciting astral adventures, the formation of some of *Black Hammer*'s greatest heroes, and more in this heartbreaking superhero tale about fathers and sons.

Collects the entire series of Doctor Andromeda from *New York Times* bestselling and Eisner-winning creator Jeff Lemire!

"Heartfelt issue looking to explore parental ties, obsession, and, potentially, retribution."

—ALL-COMIC

"An emotional and conflicted tale of classic heroism and how it all looks after hanging up the suit."

—BLEEDING COOL

"This is everything awesome about classic comic books viewed through the rose-tinted goggles of modern day superheroics. I highly recommend it."

—KABOOOOOM

"If you're already a *Black Hammer* fan then this should be viewed as an absolutely essential purchase, but given the strength of both the writing and the artwork, this could also be looked at as an equally enjoyable stand-alone series. Highly recommended either way."

—BIG COMIC PAGE



SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

